

Subsidence Management Plan



**Ashton Coal  
Longwall Panels 1 - 4**

Subsidence Management Plan  
Written Report

## Ashton Underground Consultation Log

Dial Before You Dig on 25/11/05 by G Lothringer

3 companies with infra structure

- Telstra Contact No. 1800 653935
- Powertel Contact No. 02 82643932
- Energy Australia Contact No. 02 49510899

Also contacted RTA Adrian McRae

### Powertel

John Della from Powertel onsite 15/12/2005. Viewed large scale plans showing locations Powertel infrastructure. John Della and J.Grebert out into the field to verify the cables type and location. Location was the same as shown on plans and type was Fibre optic. Emailed copies of Strata Engineering report and Mine plan to J.Della to consult with Powertel Engineers. Verbal acknowledgement that there are no objections to Ashton's U/G mining plan. Powertel are preparing a letter and agreement for discussion with the Mine.

### Telstra

Phone conversation with Kevin Wright 20/12/05 to organise site visit for 22/12/05. Phone call from K.W on 22/12/2005, unable to attend site, however he has checked all Telstra cables in the area of Ashton coal's mine workings and there is only a copper line in conduit. Emailed strata engineering report and mine plans to K.W on 22/12/05.

On 23/12/05 received email confirming no impact on Telstra infrastructure from first workings (attached)

### Energy Australia

Meeting with Kristen Keir from Energy Australia on 27/10/2005. Overview of mine plan given to KK, both 1<sup>st</sup> workings and Longwall extraction, reviewed and discussed plans. Inspection of site infrastructure

- 66 and 132kv Lines parallel with the New England Highway
- 132kv line at southern end of Longwall blocks
- 11kv line over LW4 & 5 area

Provided KK with copy of Strata Engineering report, mine plan and aerial photograph of mine site.

On 28/411/05 received email confirming no objections from first workings (attached)

### RTA

Extensive consultation conducted with RTA regarding the mining under New England Highway since October 2005.

Letter received from RTA on 10/1/2006 indicates no objections to mining operations under the New England Highway subject to entering into a Works Authorisation Deed (letter attached)

### Gas Lines

No gas lines were listed on the Dial before you dig search, however consulted with Stephen Angel from Agility by phone and emailed mine plan showing all known infrastructure. No reply has been received as yet



**ASHTON COAL OPERATIONS PTY LIMITED**  
ABN 22 078 556 500

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CAMBERWELL NSW 2330

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21 October 2005

**Consultation Meeting Between Ashton Coal and RTA Regarding Proposed Ashton Mine  
First Workings Under New England Highway**

Meeting held at Ashton Coal Mine, 21 October 2005, 12pm – 1:30pm.

Present:

Roads & Traffic Authority (RTA)

- Adrian McRae
- Adam McKenzie

Ashton Underground Coal Mine

- Brian Wesley, Mine Manager
- Peter Horn, Environmental Officer

Strata Engineering Pty Ltd

- David Hill, Geotechnical Engineer

Department of Primary Industries

- Ray Ramage, Subsidence Engineer
- Gang Li, Principal Subsidence Engineer)

Mines Subsidence Board

- Gary Moore, District Manager
- Greg Coal-Clark (Manager)

Introduction:

- Brian Wesley gave overview of Ashton Underground Mine and specific plan to undermine New England Highway with underground first workings.
- David Hill gave an explanation of sink hole subsidence formation at shallow depths of cover, and then explained the design protocols used in assessing and modifying the proposed underground first workings plan under the highway. This included optimising plan layout to eliminate intersections under the highway at depths of cover of less than forty (40) metres, use of additional roof support (cable bolts) in key intersections within the highway reserve and the backfilling of these key intersections at the end of the mine life.

DPI – Comments:

- Gang Li commented on the general lack of detailed literature on the local sink hole subsidence data base. Examples of sinkhole formation, including a sink hole above and intersection of seventeen (17) metres depth of cover were provided.
- Gang Li commented on the need to ensure high confidence in highway integrity and suggested several matters for the mine to consider in the layout, design and management of underground roadways under the highway, which included:
  - minimise roadways and intersections under the highway, particularly at the shallower end of the proposed Ashton underground main roadways. This included the options of reorientating and/or widening the pillar under the highway to reduce intersections under the highway.
  - reviewing the cable bolt plan, to angle cable bolts over solid coal riblines as opposed to the vertical cable bolt plan provided by Strata Engineering Pty Ltd.
  - consider use of passive, standing support for support of key areas. Ashton (B. Wesley) commented that cable bolt support was the preferred support system by standing passive support was an option if underground roadways were found to require this form of support.
- Gang Li questioned the level of detail of some of the borehole geotechnical data. Ashton (D. Hill) explained the geotechnical data used and that each borehole was personally inspected by D.Hill as part of the geotechnical assessment.
- Gang Li supported plan to backfill key areas at the end of mine life.

Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA):

- The RTA reinforced that the embankments and cuttings adjacent to the highway pavement were almost as critical as the pavement itself.
- Similarly, consideration should be made to the roadway reserve as a whole, given the option of widening of the highway pavement may occur at a later time.
- The RTA acknowledged the report prepared by Strata Engineering Pty Ltd on potential sick hole formation and the changes in mine plan and additional support of key areas to address potential sinkholes as appearing to have sound basis.
- The RTA made preliminary comment of the monitoring of highway pavement and highway boundaries.
- The RTA was interested in the mine preparing documented management plans with regard to the support of underground roadways, monitoring of both underground roadways and the highway itself, and the plan to backfill key areas under the highway at the cessation of mine operations.

MSB Comments:

- The MSB was particularly interested in the process of optimising/minimising underground roadways in the relatively shallow cover portion of the planned workings, under the highway.
- The MSB made comment that potholes were very rare, if at all ever occurred, with the scenario as outlined for Ashton proposed underground workings under the highway. This was with particular regard to the depths of cover, pillar sizes, roadway support and the fact that the surface area was “improved” (ie. drainage in place, etc.).

Works Authorisation Deed:

- RTA requested follow up from Ashton on the works authorisation deed for Glennies Creek Road intersection, and suggested that the proposed undermining of the highway may need to be included in this deed.

**Minutes recorded by Brian Wesley.**

28 October 2005

**PROPOSED ASHTON MINE FIRST WORKINGS UNDER NEW ENGLAND HIGHWAY –  
CONSULTATION WITH ROADS AND TRAFFIC AUTHORITY (RTA)**

Following the meeting between Ashton Mine Management, RTA, Mines Subsidence Board and the Department of Primary Industries on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2005, the following modifications have been proposed to the Ashton Underground First Workings Plan under the highway:

1. Intersections of underground roadways were relocated further from the edge of the roadway pavement and away from the road edge embankments.
2. Underground roadways and intersections were minimised under the highway pavement and roadway reserve.
3. A large pillar was placed under the highway pavement and embankments, with underground roadway intersections not passing under the highway pavement until approximately ninety (90) metres depth of cover (as opposed to the previous plan where intersections were planned under the highway of approximately forty-five {45} metres depth of cover).

These changes are reflected in Drawing Number 00861, Revision D.

In addition to the above changes in Mine Plan, Ashton Mine have evaluated and accepted the proposed changes for secondary roof support in the underground roadway intersections that are located within the depth of cover criteria to include the proposed cable bolts to be angled over the roadways over the underground roadway sides as suggested by the Principal Subsidence Engineer.

Yours faithfully

Brian Wesley  
**Mine Manager - Ashton Underground Coal Mine**

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WWW.ASHTONCOAL.COM.AU

18 January 2006

Mr Adrian McRae  
Project Manager  
Roads and Traffic Authority  
59 Darby Street  
NEWCASTLE NSW 2300

Dear Mr McRae

**Notes on WAD for Underground Mine Development Under New England Highway – from Ashton/ RTA Meeting on 13/01/06**

- 1.1 Definitions  
‘Works’ – delete ‘final commissioning of underground mine and associated structures’.
- 2.1 Acknowledgements  
- RTA to advise if Part 5 is applicable given works are already approved in a Development Consent.
- 4.1 Security – Purpose  
- Approved security to be lodged as single amount, not three separate amounts.
- 4.3 Retention and Return of Approved Securities  
- Security returned at completion of development of underground roadways in area of interest applicable to WAD, and after provision of (a) survey plan of relevant underground workings, (b) statutory declaration from Mine Manager certifying works were conducted in accordance with agreement with RTA, and (c) the finalisation of deed of agreement for longer term monitoring.  
- Security to be in form of bank guarantee.

- 6.2(a) Review Process
- Ashton to supply design drawings in form of a mine plan and a single copy of Strata Engineering Report detailing strata support and monitoring of underground roadways and New England Highway in area covered by WAD.
- 7.1(c) Preconditions to Commencement
- 7.1 (c) does not apply. RTA to provide a letter (Design Approval Letter) indicating fulfilment of this clause.
- 7.1(c) Project schedule of underground works to be provided by Ashton to RTA.
- 7.2 Appointment of Contractor
- 7.2 not applicable. This matter to be included in Design Approval Letter.
- 8.1(t) Carrying out of works
- 8.1(t) not applicable. This matter to be included in Design Approval Letter.
- 8.1A Engagement of Independent Engineer
- To be deleted
- 8.2 Testing
- No testing envisaged.
- 10.4 Hand over of Works
- 10.4 not applicable. This matter to be included in Design Approval Letter.
- 10.4A Decommissioning of Underground Coal Mine
- to be deleted. Will be covered in separate Deed.
- 10.8 Moral Rights
- to be left in WAD as is, but obtaining consent not critical to process.
- 11.3 Final Claim and Notice
- Changes to single bank guarantee
- 11A Maintenance Period
- Delete.
- 13.1 Indemnity
- Ashton disputed inclusion of 'consequential losses'. RTA to review given specifics of project covered by WAD and advise Ashton.



**13.2 No Limitation**

- 13.2(a) delete 'maintenance and decommissioning of the underground coal mine from the Works'.
- 13.2(b) delete 'maintenance and decommissioning of the underground coal mine from the Works'.

**Execution of Deed**

- Must be signed and delivered, but "sealing" not required under new corporations law.

**Schedule**

Item 2 – Estimated cost of Works \$700,000.

Item 3 – At practical completion and execution of Deed of Agreement.

Item 4 – Costs – Nil

Period - At practical completion and execution of Deed of Agreement.

Item 9 – Approved security - \$100,000 in form of Bank Guarantee.

**Attachment A - Project Requirements**

- A McRae to edit Attachment A. Most does not apply.

**Attachment B - Description of works**

- Delete 1.
- Edit 2, particularly deleting last dot point.

**Attachment C - Insurances**

- (ii) RTA to check if Motor Vehicle insurance needed. Ashton indicated that it was not considered applicable for underground mine workings.
- (v) Contract Insurance – Not Applicable.

**Attachment D**

- Not relevant

Yours faithfully

**BRIAN WESLEY**

**Ashton Underground Mine Manager**

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28 October 2005

**Consultation Meeting Between Ashton Coal and RTA Regarding Proposed Ashton Mine  
First Workings Under New England Highway**

Meeting held at Ashton Coal Mine, 28 October 2005, 10am – 1pm.

Present:

Roads & Traffic Authority (RTA)

- Adrian McRae
- Adam McKenzie

Ashton Underground Coal Mine

- Brian Wesley, Mine Manager
- Peter Horn, Environmental Officer

Strata Engineering Pty Ltd

- David Hill, Geotechnical Engineer

Department of Primary Industries

- Ray Ramage, Subsidence Engineer

Mines Subsidence Board

- Gary Moore, District Manager

Discussion and Site Inspection

- Brian Wesley presented the revised first workings plan for underground roadways at Ashton Mine under the New England Highway, and explained the modifications made to the plan resulting from the outcomes of the previous meeting with the RTA on 21 October 2005. The new plan presented was Drawing Number 00861, Revision D, dated 28 October 2005.
- David Hill presented a plan showing areas where sinkhole formation was considered very low probability but possible. These areas were outside the highway reserve boundaries.

- David Hill presented a plan showing areas where very minor subsidence (ie. <100mm subsidence) was considered as practically impossible but not absolutely precluded within the highway reserve. The extent of these areas was greatly reduced to the previous plan layout and the areas would also be supported with additional secondary support and be backfilled at end of mine life.
- There was general discussion on the new proposed mine plan (Drawing Number 00861, Revision D) before the meetings attendees conducted an inspection of the Open Cut highwall from which the Underground workings would commence and an inspection of the highway area under which mine workings were proposed.

## **Summary**

### **Outcomes of Meeting:**

#### **Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA):**

The RTA representatives were satisfied with the new mine workings layout plan as presented at the meeting, subject to requests listed below. The RTA acknowledged that matters raised at the previous weeks meeting had been incorporated into the new plan.

#### **RTA requests:**

##### **1) Highway survey monitoring:**

- RTA provided recommendations on location and monitoring regime for survey monitoring points along the highway. The monitoring points land baseline survey are to be conducted prior to undermining the roadway reserve, and then on a 3 monthly frequency, as detailed in the Ashton Development Consent.
- Survey monitoring is to occur from the Glennies Creek cutting through to the north-western side of Bowmans Creek bridge.

##### **2) Ashton Action Plan in response to any collapse of Underground Mine workings under the roadways reserve:**

- RTA require Ashton to develop and implement a Trigger Action Response Plan (TARP) for any significant collapse of Underground workings located under the highway.
- The RTA envisaged the actions following a collapse of an Underground roadway beneath the highway reserve to include:
  - Immediate inspection for any surface impacts,
  - Notifications to RTA (Transport Management Centre) and Mines Subsidence Board (MSB) if surface movements are identified.

3) Photographic records:

- of cuttings and highway as a benchmark prior to the undermining reserve
- would be done in conjunction with baseline survey, with photos referenced to survey points
- Note that the MSB undertakes a photographic record as part of their process, pre and post mining, which was agreed, would likely meet the requirements of the RTA.

4) Backfilling Plan:

- RTA require details of backfilling plan post mining including type of backfill and geotechnical supporting documentation for selection of backfill areas and type of backfill recommended.

DPI – Ray Ramage

*On new layout plan:*

- Generally agree matters raised at last meeting addressed, however need to discuss plan with principal Subsidence Engineer for formal feedback.
- Again, re-emphasised preference for secondary support cable bolts to be angled over ribsides, due to strata jointing.

MSB – Gary Moore

- Satisfied with modified mine plan and agree matters raised at previous meeting addressed/incorporated into new plan.

Next step:

- 1) Ashton to send copies of plans and listed changes to parties and the intended development of management plans and monitoring plans.
- 2) DPI to provide feedback on general acceptance of new proposed mine layout, subject to management plans and monitoring in place.

**Minutes recorded by Brian Wesley.**



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15<sup>th</sup> November 2005

**SUBJECT: Phone call between RTA (Adrian McRae) and Brian Wesley on first workings under New England Highway**

1. The RTA have not contacted, nor been contacted by the DPI within the last couple of weeks. Last contact with the DPI was at the consultation meeting held on site at Ashton mine site on 28<sup>th</sup> October, when Ray Ramage (DPI Subsidence Engineer) was in attendance.
2. As such, the RTA is not aware of the DPI directive to prohibit or limit the extent of first workings under the highway.
3. The RTA is still working through their internal approval process with an internal assessment of the Ashton proposal now being conducted by their geotechnical engineers and their area managers. The process is expected to take another two weeks to complete.

Yours faithfully

**Brian Wesley**  
**Mine Manager**



"James Grebert "  
<jgrebert@ashtoncoal.com.au>  
26/10/2006 10:09 AM

To <AmandaKerr@erm.com>  
cc  
bcc  
Subject FW: Current proposed Ashton underground mine plans

Amanda,  
Here are the emails with EE giving there consent.

*James Grebert*  
*Senior Mining Engineer*  
*(02) 65 709 169*



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**From:** Brian Wesley  
**Sent:** Thursday, 26 October 2006 10:07 AM  
**To:** James Grebert  
**Subject:** FW: Current proposed Ashton underground mine plans

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**From:** Kristan Keir [mailto:KKeir@energy.com.au]  
**Sent:** Monday, 28 November 2005 4:10 PM  
**To:** Brian Wesley  
**Subject:** Re: Current proposed Ashton underground mine plans

Brian

As discussed Energy Australia has no submissions in regards to the Ashton undergrounds preliminary works under the lines running parallel with the highway.

With regards to our 132kV line 95X, our Overhead Design group has been informed of the longwall operations that will affect it the line and we are hoping to meet on site in the next week or two to discuss the recoverable works necessary prior to the longwall commissioning.

Regards

Kristan Keir  
Engineer  
Customer Supply Upper Hunter  
Phone. (02) 6542 9094  
Fax. (02) 6542 9037

To <kkeir@energy.com.au>  
cc  
Subject Current proposed Ashton underground mine plans

"Brian Wesley" <bwesley@ashtoncoal.com.au>

25/11/2005 14:47

Kristan

As discussed on the phone, please find attached our current mine plan proposal (revised since previous communications) for underground workings under and adjacent to the New England Highway and the Energy Australia power lines running parallel to the highway.

As discussed, could you please review and provided your current assessment stands that the mine plan is acceptable to Energy Australia, please advise such in writing.

Thankyou for your input and assistance on this project.

Regards

Brian Wesley  
Mine Manager  
Ashton Underground Mine  
Ph. Direct (02) 6570 9104  
Mob. 0419 970 894

[attachment "Mains plan 22-10-2005, 01064C SHeet 1.pdf" deleted by Kristan Keir/ITS/energyAustralia/AU] [attachment "Mains plan (portal area) 22-10-2005, 01064C Dimensions.pdf" deleted by Kristan Keir/ITS/energyAustralia/AU]

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This e-mail may contain confidential or privileged information. If you have received it in error, please notify the sender immediately via return email and then delete the original email. EnergyAustralia has collected your business contact details for dealing with you in your business capacity. More information about how we handle your personal information, including your right of access is contained at <http://www.energy.com.au>.  
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1 January 2006

Mr James Grebert  
Senior Mining Engineer  
Ashton Coal Operations Pty Limited

*By Email – [jgrebert@ashtoncoal.com.au](mailto:jgrebert@ashtoncoal.com.au)*

Dear James

### **Letter of Confirmation**

We refer to our recent discussions in relation to the activities of Ashton Coal Operations Pty Limited (“Ashton”) proposed in the vicinity of a telecommunications cable owned and operated by PowerTel Limited (“PowerTel Cable”). We note that these activities include mining under the PowerTel Cable.

In consideration for the mutual promises contained herein Ashton and PowerTel agree as follows:

Subject to Ashton’s compliance with the following points and receipt from Ashton of written confirmation of the below, PowerTel confirms that it does not object to the proposed activities:

1. PowerTel receiving a signed indemnity deed from Ashton in the form provided to it by PowerTel in January 2006 and Ashton undertaking to comply strictly with the terms of that indemnity.
2. Ashton agrees to immediately advise PowerTel if the scope or nature of the proposed activities change from what has been previously advised to PowerTel (including without limitation if the area in which the activities are proposed to be carried out is varied).
3. Ashton agreeing to complying strictly with:
  - a. The recommendations of its consultant Strata Engineering including without limitation those recommendations contained in the document titled “Roof Support Requirements for the Main Headings, Ashton Underground Mine”;
  - b. Its Site Safety Standards requirements including the document titled “Pothole Management Plan for Working Under and Adjacent to New England Highway”;



- c. All legal obligations imposed on it by regulatory authorities including without limitation the Inspector of Mines;
- d. Australian and international best practice standards in relation to the activities contemplated; and
- e. An agreement with PowerTel to contact its nominated personnel immediately if it suspects or is aware that the PowerTel Cable or any associated infrastructure is in danger of suffering loss or damage.

Please contact me directly if you have any further queries.

Yours faithfully

Ben Küffer

Senior Legal Counsel  
 PowerTel Limited  
 03 8628 2724

Signed as an agreement by an authorised representative of Ashton Coal Operations Pty Limited

Signed	Witness
Name	Name
Date	Date

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23 January 2006

Manager, Land Use Development  
Operations & Services  
Roads and Traffic Authority  
Locked Bag 30  
NEWCASTLE NSW 2300

Dear David,

## **FRAMEWORK OF AGREEMENTS**

Thank you for the opportunity to meet with Adrian McRae and yourself on Friday 13 January 2006. During that meeting we discussed the best means of addressing the series of agreements and approvals that need to be established to facilitate the program of works desired by Ashton that are related to the New England Highway. As a result of that meeting, Ashton intends to:

1. Establish a Works Authorisation Deed (WAD 1) for the mining of the portal entries under the New England Highway;
2. Establish a Works Authorisation Deed (WAD 2) for the works associated with the upgrade of the intersection between the New England Highway and Glennies Creek Road;
3. Seek RTA approval for the location of mine headings in the vicinity of Bowmans Creek Bridge; and
4. Establish a Deed of Agreement (Deed) for the long term monitoring of main headings located within the road reserve of the New England Highway.

The works associated with WAD 1 are dissimilar to those usually managed by the boilerplate agreement prepared by RTA, so considerable time was spent with Adrian McRae in revising the format to accommodate the unusual nature of the works. We trust that these revisions can be accommodated by RTA and approved within a reasonable timeframe.

The significant facets of the proposed WAD 1 are as follows:

- The “Works” will be limited to the driveage of the three main entries within the road reserve;
- Ashton will forward two plans to RTA. These are:
  - An overall plan that provides the alignment of main headings and gate roads in the vicinity of the New England Highway; and
  - A detailed plan showing the main entries and defining the limits of WAD 1.
- The initial benchmark monitoring program has been established;
- WAD 1 will cease to exist and the security of \$100,000 and will be refunded once:
  - Works in the area are completed;
  - A certified drawing is submitted by the Mine Surveyor that details the extent of the works;
  - A statutory declaration is submitted by the Mine Manager that the works have been completed in accordance with the report submitted by Strata Engineering; and
  - The Deed has been signed and approved.

We trust that this framework of agreements is suitable to RTA and we look forward to the speedy resolution of each activity.

Yours faithfully

**PETER BARTON**  
**Development Manager**

Reference 113/06/KK  
Project No XPU011889  
Contact Kristan Keir  
Telephone (02) 6542 9094  
Facsimile (02) 6542 9037



41 Thomas Mitchell Drive  
Muswellbrook NSW 2333  
Telephone (02) 6542 9000  
Facsimile (02) 6542 9037

30 March, 2006

Att: Jim Grebert

Address all mail to  
PO Box 196  
Muswellbrook NSW 2333

Dear Jim

**Re: Design of 132kV Line 95X Relocation**

Thank you for your enquiry requesting a quotation to relocate a section of EnergyAustralia's 132kV assets to allow for Long Wall Mining Operations at Ashton Mine.

An initial assessment of your proposal and possible impact on EnergyAustralia's network has been undertaken. The following work has been approved to proceed to the design stage:

**Proposed Work**

- a. Alteration of section of Feeder 95X to avoid impact from mine subsidence

Under EnergyAustralia's policies, this work is deemed to be recoverable work and will be carried out by EnergyAustralia's design and construction staff. The full cost for the design and construction of the work will be chargeable to Ashton Coal Operations Pty Limited.

These charges will be based on actual costs including overheads and a component for capital, calculated as material and labour costs plus the overhead rate as published each year in EnergyAustralia's ES5 – Network Miscellaneous Connection Charges. The overhead rate is regulated by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal of New South Wales (IPART).

**Design**

For the project to advance, a non-refundable Design fee of \$8800.00 (including GST) is required to allow for the preparation of the design. The attached Notification of Payment Form is to be used when making payment and contains information on your payment options.

This offer is valid for (2) two months from the date of this letter.

The above cost for design allows for:

- Initial site visits and preliminary discussions/investigations to date.





**NOTIFICATION OF PAYMENTS FORM – PROJECT XPU011889**

<b>Development Location</b>		
Lot No. -	DP No. -	Street No. -
Street <i>Glennies Creek Rd</i>		Town/Suburb <i>Camberwell</i>
<b>Customer Details</b>		
Customer Name <i>Jim Grebert ASHTON COAL OPERATIONS Pty LTD</i>		
Business Name: <i>Ashton Coal</i>		
Customer Postal Address <i>PO Box 699 Singleton NSW 2330</i>		
Telephone Number <i>0408 448 247</i> <i>08 6576 1111</i>	Fax No <i>02 6576 1122</i>	email: -
<b>CUSTOMER</b>		
Signature of Customer .....	Date: .....	
<b>COMPANY</b>		
The Common Seal of	)	
was hereunto affixed in accordance with the	)	
Articles of Association and by authority of the Board	)	<b>Director</b>
in the presence of:	)	
	)	Date: .....

**NOTIFICATION OF PAYMENTS**

ITEM	DETAILS	Fee/Charge
1	Design	\$8000.00
2		\$
	<b>Sub-total (GST-exclusive Fees and Charges)</b>	<b>\$8000.00</b>
	<b>10% GST</b>	<b>\$800.00</b>
	<b>TOTAL (including GST)</b>	<b>\$8800.00</b>

**METHOD OF PAYMENT**

- Payment may be mailed to: Attention Marea Wilkins, Customer Service, PO Box 196, MUSWELLBROOK NSW 2333, or
- Cheque payable to Energy Australia presented to the **IDENTIFIED** EnergyAustralia Planning Officer (receipt/tax invoice to be mailed out), or
- Debit your EnergyAustralia account. ⇒ **Authorisation:** Name: .....  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Signed: .....

*A tax invoice will be forwarded to you upon receipt of payment*

Prepared by Kristan Keir

Telephone 02 6542 9094

Date: 30/03/2006

EnergyAustralia Planning Officer



EASEMENT CONSENT FORM - ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION LINES

I/we .....

Of .....

being the owner/s of the land situated at .....

.....

Lot ..... DP .....

on which Enerserve proposes to erect an electricity transmission line and equipment for EnergyAustralia, project number XPU011889 hereby consent to:

**The Creation of an Easement, which includes:**

- The easement acquisition work being arranged by .....  
(Customer to insert their Surveyors details )
- The easement being 60 metres wide, in favour of EnergyAustralia.
- Agreement of payment of \$..... as compensation for the easement rights.
- Terms of Easement on the reverse of this form (for inclusion in the 88B Instrument)

- **The Electricity Transmission Line Construction** by EnergyAustralia or its agents.
- **The Electricity Transmission Line and Equipment Maintenance** by EnergyAustralia or its agents.

Subject to the following conditions:

1. As little disturbance and damage as possible will be caused and in the event of any damage being caused, it will be made good by EnergyAustralia or its agents.
2. EnergyAustralia employees or agents may enter upon the land at any time for the purpose of inspecting and maintaining the distribution lines.
3. EnergyAustralia employees or agents shall shut or lock all closed gates after passing through at all times.
4. No structure shall be erected within the easement without the approval of EnergyAustralia.
5. No equipment shall be carried or taken within 3 metres of the conductors of the transmission lines without the approval of EnergyAustralia.
6. Clearances between trees and distribution lines shall be maintained by EnergyAustralia in accordance with the 'Guide to Tree Pruning and Maintaining Safety Clearances Near Power Lines' issued by the Energy Authority of NSW. The disposal or removal of tree trimmings shall be carried out in accordance with the owner's requirements from time to time.
7. The distribution lines are to provide electricity supply to consumers in accordance with the Electricity Supply Act 1995.

Signed: ..... Date: .....

For: ..... Witnessed by:.....

SEE OVER ↻

**DESCRIPTION FOR EASEMENTS IN FAVOUR OF  
ENERGY AUSTRALIA FOR SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY**

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**TERMS OF EASEMENT FOR ELECTRICITY LINE**

Full and free right leave liberty and licence for EnergyAustralia (hereinafter called "EA") its successors and assigns its and their officers, servants, agents, workman and contractors and all other persons authorised by it or them to act on its or their behalf.

- (a) To erect construct place inspect alter repair renew maintain and use upon the lot burdened (hereinafter called "the Servient tenement") overhead and/or underground electricity transmission, conductors, mains, wires and cables and their supports therefore (including towers and poles) and other ancillary works (including substations) for the transmission of electricity (the ownership of all of which works it is hereby acknowledged is vested in EA);
- (b) To cause or permit electricity to flow or to be transmitted through and along the said conductors, mains, wires, cables and ancillary works;
- (c) With or without vehicles and plant and equipment to enter and be in the servient tenement for the purposes of exercising any right leave, liberty or licence granted hereunder; and
- (d) To cut trim or lop trees branches and other growths or foliage which now or at any time hereafter may overhang encroach or be in or on the servient tenement and which in the opinion of EA may or may be likely to interfere with any right leave liberty or licence granted hereunder;
- (e) To, for the purpose of gaining access to the servient tenement, with or without vehicles, plant and equipment enter be upon, traverse and depart from land adjoining the servient tenement owned by the owner for the time being of the servient tenement;
- (f) The Registered Proprietor does hereby for itself and other owners from time to time of the servient tenement covenant with EA that it will not do or knowingly suffer to be done any act or thing which may injure or damage the said conductors, mains, wires, cables, supports and other ancillary works or interfere with the free flow of electric current within the easement AND that if any such damage of injury be done or interference be made the said Registered Proprietor will forthwith pay the costs to EnergyAustralia of properly and substantially repairing and making good all such injury or damage and restoring the free flow of electric current as aforesaid.
- (g) The Registered Proprietor does hereby for itself and other owners from time to time of the servient tenement covenant with EA that it will not without the consent of EA alter or permit to be altered the existing levels of the easement nor will it without the like consent erect or permit to be erected any structure on above or below the easement.

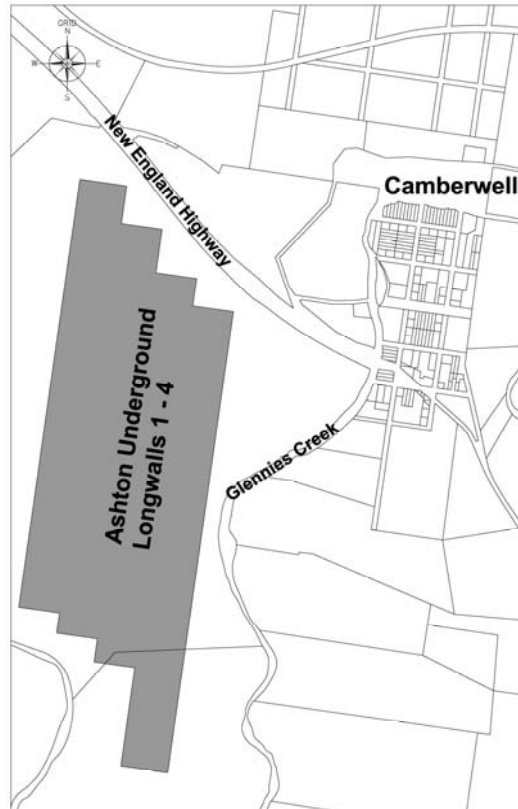




**ASHTON COAL OPERATIONS PTY LTD**  
ABN : 22 078 556 500

### **ASHTON COAL PROJECT**

It is advised that Ashton Coal Operations Pty Ltd is developing a Subsidence Management Plan for submission with an application to the New South Wales Department of Primary Industries (Minerals), for longwall mining within Mining Lease 1529 in the Pikes Gully Seam. The intended area to be covered by this application is depicted as a shaded section on the sketch below. Once prepared, the draft plan will be submitted to the Department of Primary Industries (Minerals) and will be advertised and displayed for comment at the Ashton Coal Mine Office. Inquiries regarding the preparation of the Draft Plan can be directed to the Ashton Coal office on (02) 6576 1111.





NSW GOVERNMENT  
**Department of Planning**

Mining & Extractive Industries  
 Major Development Assessment  
 Phone: (02) 9228 6481  
 Fax: (02) 9228 6466  
 Email: [mike.young@dpic.nsw.gov.au](mailto:mike.young@dpic.nsw.gov.au)  
 Level 4 Western Gallery  
 23-33 Bridge Street  
 GPO Box 39  
 SYDNEY NSW 2001

Mr Peter Barton  
 Development Manager  
 Ashton Coal operations Limited  
 PO Box 699  
 SINGLETON NSW 2330

FILE  
 PB  
 BW  
 TR  
 PH

Dear Peter

**Ashton Coal Mine – Subsidence Environmental Management Plan and  
 Subsidence Management Plan process requirements**

I refer to your email letter of 22 April 2006 seeking the Department's advice regarding the integration of process requirements for the Subsidence Environmental Management Plan (SEMP) and Subsidence Management Plan (SMP) required under Ashton's development consent and mining lease respectively.

The Department agrees that there is no benefit in the SEMP and SMP processes being run independently of one another. Your proposal that Ashton should apply the processes outlined in DPI (Minerals)'s *Guidelines for Applications for SMP Approvals*, while addressing all relevant requirements of the development consent in a combined SMP/SEMP application, is supported, as is your proposal that the requirements for Subsidence Management Impact Assessment Reports (SMIARs) should also be integrated into SMP monitoring and reporting processes.

In this case, it is appropriate that the company's SMP/SEMP application be submitted to the Department as well as to DPI (Minerals), since integrated assessment and review by the two approving agencies will be necessary as well as integrated preparation of the documentation. Subject to this process being followed, your proposal to then submit the approved SMP to the Department for approval as an SEMP, prior to finally submitting an application for approval under s. 138 of the *Coal Mines Regulation Act 1982*, is also endorsed.

In regard to your request under condition 1.5 of Ashton's development consent for the Director-General to modify the prescribed processes and reporting requirements under conditions 3.18 and 3.24, I must point out that condition 1.5 does not empower the Director-General to reduce or change the reporting requirements under the consent conditions – only that these requirements be integrated with the requirements of other agencies so as to prevent duplication of effort. Consequently, all substantive requirements of those conditions must stand, notwithstanding the integration of processes. I note also that there may be benefit in integrating process, monitoring and reporting requirements for other subsidence management conditions under the consent.

Consequently, I am pleased to report the Director-General's agreement to the integration of all process, monitoring and reporting requirements relating to subsidence under conditions 3.11, 3.15, 3.18 – 3.25 and 3.28 with the relevant requirements of DPI (Minerals)'s SMP application, approval, monitoring and reporting processes.

If you have any enquiries about this matter, please contact Howard Reed on 9228 6308.

Yours sincerely

18/5/06

Mike Young  
 Manager Mining & Extractive Industries  
 As delegate to the Director-General

RECEIVED  
 25 MAY 2006

BY:.....

cc. Ken Hollands, A/Director Environmental Sustainability, DPI (Minerals)

## Distribution List

Public Utility Owners	Telstra	Mr Ray Munt Network Integrity Services Telstra Corporation Ltd Locked Bag 5035 Parramatta NSW 2124
	EnergyAustralia	Mr Ian Hall Manager Customer Services EnergyAustralia - Muswellbrook PO Box 196 Muswellbrook NSW 2333
	Powertel	Powertel Level 11, 55 Clarence Street Sydney NSW 2000
Government Agencies	DPI	Michael Lloyd Department of Primary Industries (Minerals) PO Box 344 Hunter Region Mail Centre 2310
	DIPNR	Mr Fergus Hancock Department of Natural Resources Suite 6 464 King Street Newcastle West
	DEC	Executive Director Operations Department of Environment and Conservation PO Box A290 Sydney South NSW 1232
	Registrar of Aboriginal Owners	Registrar of Aboriginal Owners Centennial Plaza Tower B Level 13/280 Elizabeth Street Surry Hills NSW 2010
	Mine Subsidence Board	Mr Gary Moore Mine Subsidence Board PO Box 524 Singleton NSW 2330
	Singleton Shire Council	The General Manager Singleton Shire Council PO Box 314 Singleton NSW 2330
	Roads and Traffic Authority	Mr David Young Manager, Land Use Development Hunter Operations and Services Roads and Traffic Authority Hunter Regional Office Locked Bag 30 Newcastle 2300

19 May 2006

[See distribution list attached]

*Our Reference:* 0048045 CONSULTATION LETTER 01.DOC



Dear xxxx,

**RE: APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF A SUBSIDENCE  
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Ashton Coal Operations Pty Limited (Ashton Coal) is preparing a draft Subsidence Management Plan for submission to the Department of Primary Industries (Minerals). This draft plan and application is expected to be submitted for approval in July 2006.

The intention to prepare a Subsidence Management Plan has been advertised in the Singleton Argus and the Sydney Morning Herald.

The object of the plan is to ensure appropriate subsidence management strategies are in place for the mining of longwall panels 1 to 4 at Ashton Coal Mine.

Ashton Coal would like to provide an opportunity for all stakeholders to discuss aspects of the management plan that are of particular interest to them, particularly concerning landholders or organisations that have land or infrastructure above the proposed longwalls.

A representative of Ashton Coal will contact you in the near future to arrange a meeting to outline the proposed management plan and address any concerns you may have in this regard. Should you have any questions about this process, please contact Amanda Kerr on 02 4964 2150.

Yours sincerely,  
for Environmental Resources Management Australia Pty Ltd

Amanda Kerr  
Environmental Engineer

Paul Douglass  
Partner

Environmental Resources Management Australia	
Referred to: AK	9048045
Date Received	24 MAY 2006
Checked By: AK	Date 24/5/06



OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR  
ABORIGINAL LAND RIGHTS ACT 1983 (NSW)

CENTENNIAL PLAZA, TOWER B  
LEVEL 13, 280 ELIZABETH STREET  
SURRY HILLS NSW 2010  
P. 02 9219 0700 F. 02 9219 0770

To: Amanda Kerr  
Fax No: +61 2 4964 2152  
From: Megan Mebberson  
Phone No: +61 2 9219 0703  
Email: Megan.Mebberson@daa.nsw.gov.au  
Date: 23 May 2006  
Pages: 1 Inc.

Message:

Our ref: 05R/0084-3

Dear Amanda

**Re: Request - Search for Registered Aboriginal Owners.**

I refer to your letter dated 16 May 2006 advising of your intention to engage in a consultation process with Aboriginal stakeholders in preparation of a Subsidence Management Plan for the proposed mining of longwall panels 1 to 4 at Ashton Coal Mine near Camberwell, NSW.

I have searched the Register of Aboriginal Owners and the subject land does not have registered Aboriginal Owners pursuant to Division 3 of the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983* (NSW).

Regards

  
Megan Mebberson  
Project Officer (*Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983*)  
Land Claims and Register of Aboriginal Owners

**Meeting  
Minutes**

53 Bonville Avenue  
Thornton NSW 2322  
AUSTRALIA  
PO Box 71  
Thornton NSW 2322  
AUSTRALIA  
www.erm.com

**Subject/Job Number** 0048045

**Venue** Hickson Street, Merewether

**Date of Meeting** 25 May 2006

Telephone: 61 2 4964-2150  
Facsimile: 61 2 4964-2152

**Present** Mr Alistair Bowman, Ms Amanda Kerr and Ms Joanne Woodhouse (ERM), Mr Peter Horn (Ashton Coal)



**Distribution**

**Date** 2/06/06

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<b>Item</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Action By/Date</b>
1.	Introduction of ERM as the Project Managers for the preparation of the SMP	
2.	Using a plan of the site, the application area was discussed as being only LWP 1 to 4 in the Pikes Gully Seam	
3.	Mr Bowman queried the overall timeframe of LWP 1 to 4 and subsequent panels. PH is to provide Mr Bowman with a timetable of works.	
4.	Mr Bowman raised a number of concerns in relation to subsidence within the application area: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> dairy on his property requires 24 hour access by milk truck (currently a single tanker but may also be a B-Double in future);</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> the home on the property is residence of family/children and they need continual safe access for school etc.; and</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> road is mostly within a surveyed Right of Way (ROW). Has previously been in various other positions.</li></ul>	
5.	PH outline some proposed management measures that Ashton will undertake to ensure access is maintained in safe conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> daily inspections by Ashton Coal staff when mining is occurring under the road to monitor the condition of the road - if repairs are needed, a grader will be on-call to repair the road; and</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> monitoring will also ensure that if required, the road will be relocated/realigned as necessary.</li></ul>	
6.	Discussed rate of movement by the longwall (approximately 30m a day or 200m a week). Mr Bowman indicated that he would like to see some form of signage in the active longwall area (where it affects the road) warning drivers (i.e. milk	

Item	Description	Action By/Date
	truck, service technicians, environmental consultants, private visitors etc) that subsidence is occurring in that area, recommended speed limits	
7.	Mr Bowman noted that some sections of the road within Ashton's property need minor works for safety and drainage	
8.	Mr Bowman noted that one of his sheds appears to be within the predicted subsidence area. He has previously been informed by Ashton representative that any damage would be compensated by the Mine Subsidence Board - however, he would prefer that Ashton take a more active role than that.	
9.	General discussion of safety issues along road and that its condition will require monitoring, including keeping the ROW clean/cleared for its full width.	
10.	Ashton to maintain the firebreak on its boundary with Lot 130 - part of the site's bushfire management plan	
11.	ERM discussed how a specific management plan will need to be prepared for each surface feature. For ease of use, ERM will provide Mr Bowman with a succinct document that summarises only those management/monitoring actions that apply to Mr Bowman's property.	
12.	Mr Bowman requested that Ashton provide a plan showing the full extent of the subsidence and that this also be shown on the ground by survey peg	
13.	Impact to utilities - electricity to the dwelling crosses over Glennies Creek and is unlikely be impacted, however Telstra cables will be impacted by subsidence. The dwelling already experiences poor reception. ERM advised that the impact to services is being investigated and that if necessary, the cable can be relocated.	
14.	Mr Bowman is leaving to go overseas on the 21 <sup>st</sup> June and wont return for some months. ERM will provide drafts of the appropriate management plans, in particular the road subsidence management plan, by mid-June.	
15.	ERM provided Mr Bowman with copies of Primefacts, Conditions of consent that relate to Lot 130, plan showing LWP on aerial base, and copy of the SMP newsletter.	

# Ashton Coal Mine

**NEWSLETTER 22**  
**May 2006**

**Ashton Coal Operations**  
**Pty Limited**  
Glennies Creek Road  
CAMBERWELL NSW


✉ **Postal Address**  
PO Box 699  
Singleton NSW 2330

### General Enquiries

Phone: (02) 6576 1111  
Fax: (02) 6576 1122  
Email: [srussell@ashtoncoal.com.au](mailto:srussell@ashtoncoal.com.au)

 **Office Hours**

8.00am - 5.00pm

 Monday - Thursday

8.00am - 4.00pm

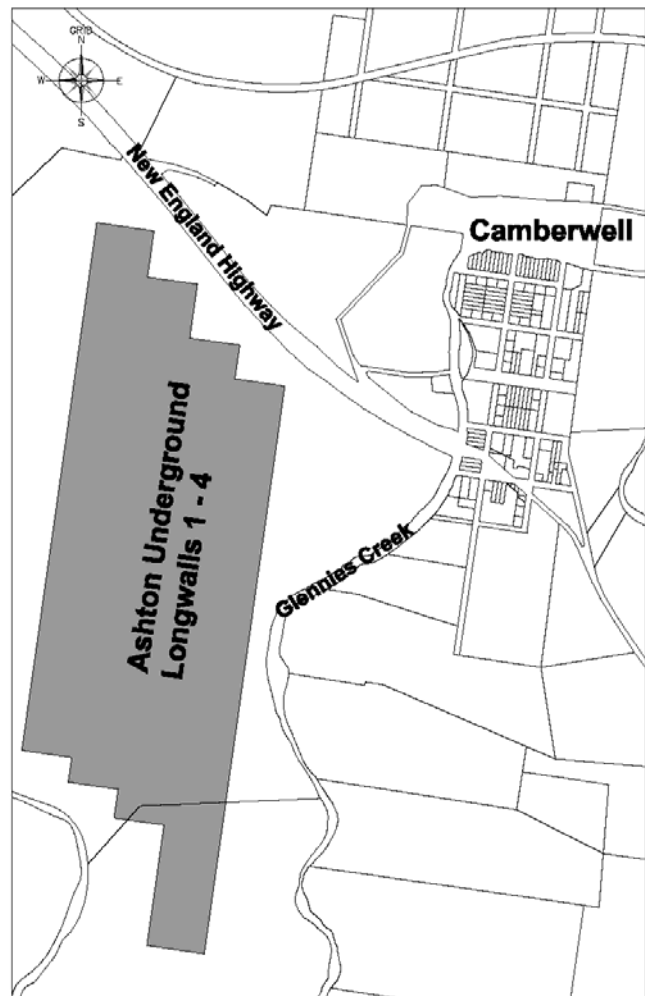
Friday

Ashton Coal Operations Pty Limited (ACOL) is producing newsletters for distribution to all householders and property owners in the Camberwell area .

## Ashton Underground Mine Subsidence Management Plan

The preparation of the Subsidence Management Plan (SMP) for Longwall Panels 1 to 4 has commenced. Environmental Resource Management Australia Pty Ltd (ERM) have been commissioned to prepare the SMP.

Longwall Panels 1 to 4 are anticipated to commence in January 2007. An approved SMP is a legal requirement for underground mining that is likely to cause subsidence and is managed and enforced under the *Mining Act 1992*





The SMP will have two major outputs. The report will entail a full land use description and impact assessment, addressing the physical landforms and environment, incorporating watercourses, wetlands, aquifers, cliff lines, pipelines and other infrastructure and areas of heritage or archaeological significance. The management plan will be developed through a process of risk assessment and community consultation to identify potential risks, their likelihood and consequences and this information will be used to devise management strategies for the potential subsidence impacts from Longwalls 1 to 4.

Subsidence management strategies will involve a combination of:

- ongoing stakeholder consultation to identify and manage concerns;
- monitoring and reporting of subsidence development and impacts;
- specific management plans and processes to address potential impacts, incorporating prevention, mitigation and/or remediation of subsidence impacts as appropriate; and
- contingency plans should an unanticipated event occur.

The SMP application will be submitted for approval by the Department of Primary Industries (Minerals) in late June to mid July, 2006.

### Approval process

Mining of Longwall Panels 1 to 4 can only commence once the SMP is approved. The application for approval of the SMP will be determined by the Director-General of the Department of Mineral Resources who, as part of the approval, may set approval conditions which must be adhered to by Ashton Coal. Prior to this, an interagency review committee will review the draft SMP and advise the Director-General on approval conditions. This committee will also participate in ongoing monitoring of subsidence management.

### Stakeholder Consultation

One of the first steps in the SMP preparation is to undertake stakeholder consultation.

The first step in the stakeholder consultation process is notifying the stakeholders of intent to prepare a SMP Application. This will be achieved by dissemination of this newsletter and advertisement of intent in the Singleton Argus and Sydney Morning Herald.

This will be followed by initial consultation with utility owners, government agencies, landowners, Ashton Community Consultative Committee (CCC) and other interested community members.

SMP management strategies will be developed following any concerns raised and then be presented to stakeholders for comment. The finalised SMP application will incorporate stakeholder concerns and relevant management strategies.

Submission of the SMP application will be advertised in the Singleton Argus and Sydney Morning Herald.

### What is subsidence?

Subsidence is movement of the ground surface that occurs when an underground mine collapses into itself as occurs following coal extraction, causing stresses to the surface above.

Potential movements are:

1. *Vertical subsidence* - lowering of the land's surface, including 'pothole' subsidence (vertical slumps) which can occur above shallow underground mines.
2. *Horizontal displacement* – horizontal movement of the land's surface
3. *Horizontal strains* – caused by differential movements at the surface which change the length of the surface between two points. A *tensile strain*, is induced if the length of the surface increases between two points, and a *compressive strain* if the length reduces.
4. *Curvature* – results when vertical subsidence is greater at one point than another, creating a surface curve between these points.



5. *Tilt* - results when vertical subsidence is greater at one point than another and so the changes the slope of the surface between these points.

The predicted extent of subsidence will be outlined in the SMP and is shown below in the area within the black outline



**Final Subsidence Contours**  
— 20mm  
— 100mm  
— 1500mm





## What effects can subsidence have?

Potential effects of subsidence include:

- potholes and consequent ponding of surface runoff;
- compression humps;
- fracturing of overburden strata causing surface runoff to run into groundwater and the mine;
- cracks in ground surface, dams, access roads, surface infrastructure, brickwork, concrete and internal linings;
- opening of joints in pipework, internal lining and paving;
- spalling of brickwork, closure of door and window openings and buckling of materials, pipes and paving;
- tilting of structures, power poles and trees; and
- disruption of groundwater reserves.

However, not all underground mining results in subsidence and not all subsidence causes damage to surface structures. The SMP will provide management strategies to address these potential impacts.

## How can I be involved?

The consultation process is the ideal forum for stakeholder input into the preparation of the SMP. Anyone who wishes to comment on the proposal is urged to contact ERM (02 4964 2150).

As always, any individual who has concerns regarding any subsidence related or environmental issues is urged to contact Ashton Mine,

using the TOLL FREE number (**1800 657 639**), to enable the issue to be addressed promptly.

Any subsidence related issues raised by stakeholders via the environmental hotline, or through other consultation processes, will be recorded in the mine's existing Community Complaints Register. This process will ensure that all issues raised are addressed and a record is kept of issues, consultation, responses and actions.

## Ashton Community Contact Phone Line

Due to difficulties with phone reception after hours for the Ashton Environment Officer, a call centre has been contracted to redirect Community Calls to appropriate site personnel and the Environment Officer. This new service will ensure that someone on the site receives your call and can act on it immediately where appropriate.

After hours (outside 7.30am to 4.00pm) calls are logged by the call centre, passed on to the Open Cut Examiner or if the call is outside the hours the OCE is on-site, the maintenance supervisor. At this point it is acted on. The environment officer will be called and a series of text messages will be sent if contact can not be made with site personnel. The Environment Officer will then call the community member back within 24 hours and investigate the complaint further on the next working day.

## Environmental Contact Line

Ashton Coal maintains a dedicated phone line for the receipt of enquiries and complaints in relation to our operations. If you have any comments regarding Ashton Coal's activities, please call the following TOLL FREE number:

**1800 657 639**

The number is available 24 hours per day 7 days per week but may be un-manned at certain times. Please use the message bank provided and we will reply as soon as we get the message.



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**MINUTES OF THE ASHTON COAL PROJECT  
COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE  
TUESDAY 30 MAY 2006  
1.00PM - ASHTON COAL PROJECT SITE OFFICE**

**ATTENDEES:**

Brian Thomas	(BT)	Singleton Council (Chairman)
Thelma DeJong	(TD)	Community Representative
Deidre Olofsson	(DO)	Community Representative
John McInerney	(JM)	Community Representative
Peter Barton	(PB)	Company Rep (Development Manager)
Tracey Rock	(TR)	Company Rep (Technical Services Manager)
Brian Wesley	(BW)	Company Rep (U/G Mine Manager) – part meeting
James Grebert	(JG)	Company Rep (Mining Engineer) – part meeting
Joanne Woodhouse	(JW)	ERM
Sherry Russell		Minute Taker

**1. OPENING OF THE MEETING BY THE CHAIRPERSON**

Meeting was opened by the Chairman at 1.10pm.

**2. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from the following members:

Fred Harvison (Singleton Council)  
Peter Horn (Environmental Officer)

**3. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST BY COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES**

Nil declared.

**4. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

Minutes from the meeting held on 22 November 2005 and 28 February 2006 were accepted as a true and accurate record.

**Moved:** *Thelma DeJong*

**Seconded:** *John McInerney*

**5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

JM raised the issue of the vacancy on the CCC meeting. BT advised Council had received 2 enquiries – no submissions have been received in writing.

JM raised the topic of safety issues along Glennies Creek Road – advised new white lines were a good improvement – no speed limit sign in place as yet. BT to raise signage issue with Greg McTaggart from Council.

TD raised the issue of prickly pear near Glennies Creek. Previous advice from DLWC was that the Cactoblastus beetle should control. Nil evidence to date.

JM advised noise was heard at 7.45am one Sunday morning. TR will look into this matter.

TR advised the noise issue raised at the last meeting was being caused from a loader feeding the hopper at the CHPP. It was also noted that under the DA the CHPP is allowed to operate 24 hours per day.

## **6. REPORTS AND OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES**

### **6.1 From Project Management**

TR provided a presentation of the current and future operations of the mine.

PB provided an overview of the MacGen tailings dams project. Infrastructure works will commence in August. Tailings will be moved to the void area by pipeline.

No questions were raised at the conclusion of the presentations.

### **6.2 From Environmental Officer**

TR provided the environmental presentation to the committee showing the data collected with respect to environmental monitoring.

JM questioned the location of the environmental monitors, namely, location 7 and its usefulness as a background dust monitor. PB responded that it is in the best available position.

DO raised the issue of groundwater water monitoring results with respect to underground mining. PB advised that the groundwater results are available for reference in the AEMR. TR advised results could be distributed with the minutes.

JM advised that there is more dust coming from the open cut mine as we mine closer to the surface. TR will look into this issue and confirm that drillers are using all dust suppression available.

JM raised the issue of the Environmental Hotline and advised that residents not happy with the message service facility. Queries are not being addressed within the 24 hour period. TR went through and explained the process with respect to the message bank service. PB advised that all complainants are notified and advised of the outcome of their complaint within the 24 hour period. If this is not the case residents are asked to provide specific examples for follow-up.

#### **6.4 Underground Mine Subsidence**

BW introduced Joanne Woodhouse from ERM to the Committee. ERM have been engaged by Ashton to undertake the Mine Subsidence Management Plan (SMP) study. BW provided an overview to the meeting of the underground operations with respect to the mine subsidence. BW advised that local residents can contact Joanne Woodhouse on 4964 2150 or contact the environmental hotline on 1800 657 639 with any comments regarding the SMP. BW advised no water is discharged off site – any water is transferred to the washery.

SMP will be submitted at the end of July 2006. It was decided that a notice be issued via a Newsletter to local residents to advise a meeting will be held on Thursday 29 June 2006 commencing at 5.00pm. Residents wishing to attend to required to contact Ashton.

#### **6.5 Section 94 – list of prioritised works**

TR advised the issue of changing the zoning and the installation of a “picnic area” near the Church is around \$55,000. JM asked if Ashton would provide the additional funding. PB advised that Ashton have written to Council advising there will be an additional section 94 contribution with the respect to the underground mine employees. BT will chase this issue up. JM asked if TR could provide a breakdown of costs with respect to the \$50,000 mentioned above. Ashton will issue a further letter to Council requesting that a portion be spent on community enhancement. Letter will be tabled at the next CCC meeting.

#### **6.6 Action Items from Previous Meeting**

Issues were discussed in item 5 above.

#### **7. GENERAL BUSINESS**

Items discussed above.

#### **8. DATE FOR NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 5 September 2006 at 1.00pm.

#### **9. SITE INSPECTION OF THE OPERATIONS**

No site inspection was undertaken.

**MEETING CLOSED AT 3.55PM**

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**ACTION ITEMS**

ITEM	RESPONSIBILITY
Blast fume – presentation for next meeting with reference to what it is, is it harmful, how is it prevent and all other facts that will provide information for the community.	TR (ACOL)
Groundwater monitoring results for the underground and the EC graph for Glennies Creek River to be issued with the final May minutes.	TR (ACOL)
Environmental Hotline – contact message bank service provider to find out why they refused to take complaints after the fourth complaint.	TR (ACOL)
Newsletter to be distributed advising residents of the “Special CCC” meeting on Thursday 29 June 2006 to discuss the SMP.	TR (ACOL)
DO requested that an explanation be printed in the next Newsletter explaining the stone dusting process, what it is, why, what its made up, how it works and what the effects are.	TR (ACOL)
Further letter to be issued to council regarding section 94 contributions – letter to tabled at the next meeting.	PB (ACOL)
Raise the issue of OCE’s responding to complaints – advising complainants the complaint has been received and are rectifying the problem.	TR (ACOL)
Rotary drills – confirm that all dust suppression equipment is being used and that the drillers understand the why it is important to use such equipment.	TR (ACOL)

ASHTON COAL OPERATIONS PTY LIMITED

# **Subsidence Management Plan Longwall Panels 1 to 4**

## **Presentation to the Community Consultation Committee**

**30<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2006**



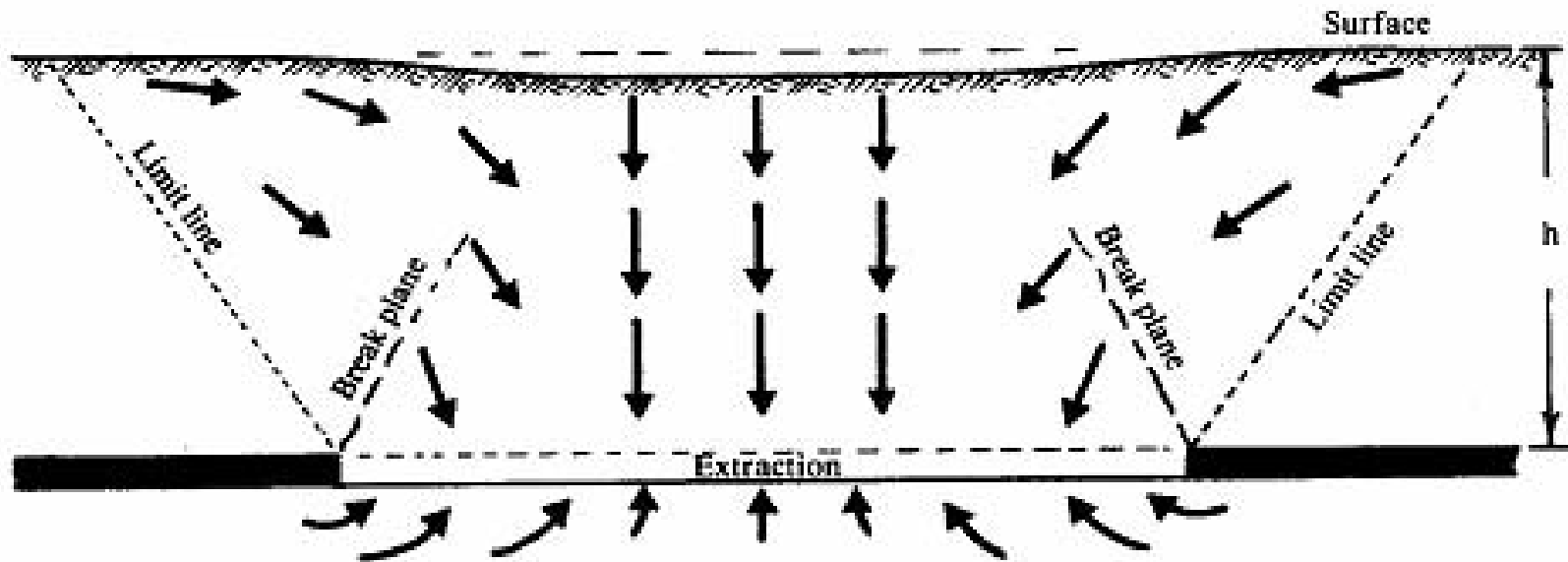


# The Application Area





# What is subsidence?



Ground movement directions across longwall extraction



# What is subsidence?

Potential movements are:

*Vertical subsidence* - lowering of the land's surface which can occur above shallow underground mines.

*Horizontal displacement* – horizontal movement of the land's surface

*Horizontal strains (tensile or compressive)* – caused by differential movements at the surface which change the length of the surface between two points.

*Curvature* – results when vertical subsidence is greater at one point than another, creating a surface curve between these points.





# What are potential impacts of subsidence?

- Buildings can be damaged
- Roads can crack
- Fences can tilt/fall over (gates may not close)
- Dams may empty
- Utilities can be broken or damaged
- Flora and Fauna habitat can be changed (nest trees)
- Archaeology can be destroyed (erosion, cracking)
- Surface drainage patterns can be altered
- Erosion can be initiated

**Not all subsidence causes damage - the SMP will provide management strategies to address these potential impacts.**



# What is a Subsidence Management Plan (SMP)?

- Identifies area affected by subsidence
- Identifies features within subsidence area
- Predicts level of subsidence
- Predicts likely impacts to surface and subsurface features
- Details management options to be implemented during life of the mine
- Outlines the monitoring requirements
- Outlines contingency plans should an unanticipated event occur

Mining can only commence once the SMP is approved by the Director-General of the Department of Mineral Resources





# What is the SMP process?

- Stakeholder Consultation:
  - One of the first steps in the SMP preparation is to undertake stakeholder consultation
- Prepare Written Report:
  - Description of area and proposal
  - Subsidence predictions
  - Summary of potential impacts
  - Description of community consultation process
- Prepare SMP:
  - Includes all necessary management plans to address subsidence impacts identified by the written report and consultation process.





# Stakeholder Consultation

- Newsletter
- Newspaper advertisements
- Stakeholder meetings (owners, government, utilities)
- CCC meetings
- Ongoing consultation (anyone may contact us with comments)
- Exhibition of SMP

SMP management strategies will be developed following any concerns raised and then be presented to stakeholders for comment. The finalised SMP application will incorporate stakeholder concerns and relevant management strategies.





# The Process From Here

The consultation process is the ideal forum for stakeholder input into the preparation of the SMP.

Anyone who wishes to comment on the proposal is urged to contact ERM on 02 4964 2150 or the Ashton Coal Environmental Hotline on 1800 657 639







ASHTON COAL OPERATIONS PTY LTD  
ABN : 22 078 556 500

## ASHTON COAL PROJECT

### Consultative Meeting 1 – Agenda

#### Meeting Aims

- Introduction of ERM as Project Managers
- Overview of Application Area - Longwalls 1 to 4
- Update of where Ashton Coal is up to with the SMP process
- Identification of stakeholders and outline of the consultation process so far
- Identification of surface and sub-surface features
- Outline of areas requiring specific management as a result of subsidence predictions
- The process from here

#### Where Ashton Coal is up to with the SMP Process

- Preliminary subsidence predictions have been completed
- Fieldwork for archaeology and ecology (flora & fauna) studies are ready to commence following the initial consultation meetings. Information will also be drawn from a large number of reports already completed over the application including an EIS and bi-annual fauna monitoring programs
- Fieldwork for hydrology (surface water and ground water) is largely complete with a supplementary programme developed through the Aquaclude Investigation process underway

#### Identification of Stakeholders and the Consultation Process so far

The following stakeholders have been identified at this stage:

- Mr. A. Bowman – Landowner
- Energy Australia
- Telstra
- Roads and Traffic Authority
- Singleton Shire Council
- Mine Subsidence Board

- Indigenous Groups

Ashton Coal have advertised their intent to submit an SMP over longwall 1-4 within the Sydney Morning Herald (Wednesday 17/06/05) and Single Argus.

Ashton Coal have drafted letters to all of the identified stakeholders and a newsletter informing the local community of the proposed works, outlining potential impacts of subsidence and clearly stating how they can be involved in consultation process. All concerns and issues raised during consultation will be documented and addressed.

Aston Coal and ERM have been in contact with Mr. A. Bowman in regards to the proposal and have outlined the consultation process. A formal meeting has been conducted with Mr. Bowman and will be based on set agenda. He has already visited the site and will continue to be consulted throughout the process.

**Identification of Surface and Sub-surface Features:**

The following surface and sub-surface features have been identified at this stage:

- Powerlines
- Roads
- Telstra Cable
- Farm Dams
- Farm Infrastructure including sheds and possibly buried power and irrigation lines
- Fences
- Residence
- Bowmans Creek

**Areas Requiring Specific Management as a result of Subsidence Predictions**

Preliminary subsidence predictions are up to 1.8 metres. This level of subsidence is likely to result in some surface cracking and compression humps.

Individual management plans will be produced for each of the following:

Roads: Remediation work would be expected and will be carried out as required over the life of the project

Farm fences: Remediation work would be expected and will be carried out as required over the life of the project

Farm dams: Impacts to be advised by sub consultant

Surface drainage: Impacts to be advised by sub consultant

Bowmans Creek: Impacts to be advised by sub consultant

Power lines: Power poles over the goaf will require monitoring and possible post-mining realignment. Remediation work will be carried out as required over the life of the project.

Buried Cables: Impacts to be advised by sub consultant

Residence (1) and Farm Sheds: Impacts to be advised but expected to require remediation works as a direct result of subsidence

**The process from here**

- Formal consultation meetings will be set up with the identified stakeholders and will be based on a set agenda
- Ashton Coal will receive final reports from consultants carrying out various studies & investigations
- Community concerns/issues raised will continue to be documented and addressed. These can be communicated to the mine via letter, e-mail, fax or phone through ERM as the primary contact or Peter Horn
- Once the Draft SMP is in its final stages a presentation will be carried out to all potentially impacted landowners and other interested parties to communicate what is included in the plan
- Submission of the SMP to the Department of Primary Industries will be advertised and will allow stakeholders to make submissions to DPI in relation to the plan

**Meeting  
Minutes**

**Subject/Job Number** 0048045

**Venue** Ashton Coal

**Date of Meeting** 1 June 2006

**Present**

Peter Horn (Ashton Coal)  
Brian Wesley (Ashton Coal)  
James Grebert (Ashton Coal)  
Joanne Woodhouse (ERM)  
Amanda Kerr (ERM)  
Monique McDonald  
Ray Ramage  
Michael Lloyd

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**Distribution**

**Date** 01/06/2006

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**Description**

**Action By/Date**

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**Meeting open 9.30am**

PH Introduce ERM as project managers for the SMP process

We have a tight schedule for this process and have called this meeting before all of the information has been collected but we will continue to shoot you information before the final document.

[refer to plan] this is our application area with longwalls 1 to 4 running parallel from east to west. Mr Bowman is our only private stake holder and we have met with him on a couple of occasions. We will list all of our identified stakeholders and will be looking for any feedback.

Outlined surface features as per the agenda.

AK Preliminary subsidence predictions have been completed and we are expecting detailed assessment next week.

Consultation has included a newsletter distributed to all of the stakeholders and the ccc. We have placed ads in the Sydney Morning Herald and Singleton Argus and made a presentation to the ccc to discuss the SMP process. The ccc have requested that all community members are invited to the next consultation meeting.

As Peter mentioned we also met with Mr Bowman last week to discuss his concerns and issues to be addressed within the management plans.

- BW A date was set for the community meeting – 29 June.
- MM That is a good opportunity. What issues have they expressed so far?
- JW Water is their main concern at this stage. We will present the identified likely impacts and our proposed management measures at the next meeting. That will give them more information to respond to.
- AK The other background studies, flora/fauna and hydrology, will also be used in the preparation of the management plans and will slot into the main report.
- Stakeholders that we have identified are [as per agenda]
- Jim and Brian have been in consultation with EnergyAustralia.
- ML When will you consult with the RTA
- JG We are looking at the end of this week/early next week.
- PH RTA has been briefed within the consultation for the first workings. No follow up meetings have been undertaken as yet. Their main issue at the time was the workings under the HWY, which does not relate to the longwalls 1-4
- AK We have surveyed the locations of the features. Most are owned by Ashton, with a small area owned by Mr. Bowman as well the presence of power lines, Telstra cables etc.
- PH Farm sheds are located on Mr. Bowman's land.
- Farm dams are located within Ashton land and are not of high ecological quality.
- Mr. Bowman's critical issue is the access road and we will continue to consult with him.
- There may also be an issue with the conservation area. A management plan has been drawn up with subsidence not being an issue. NPWS has sign of on the management plan and we are happy with the outcomes.
- The family residence and dairy [Mr. Bowman] are not in the subsidence area.
- Irrigation lines are location within the subsidence area but have not been bought up as a concern at this stage.
- ML Has Telstra been consulted?

- JW Yes, I have been in consultation with Colin Dove and he has ordered the plans from Telstra. When he receives the plans he will provide us with an assessment and management plan similar to that prepared at other mines.
- RR Is there any fibre cable?
- JG There is, just along the road. This was dealt with in the first workings.
- PH SP management plan.
- AK In regards to the access road, Alistair Bowman's main concern was safety and that his milk truck runs 24 hours a day. The family living in the residence has children and he wants to maintain access for the kids to get to school.
- Currently he has a single truck but may be upgrading to a b-double in the future.
- ML Can we just back track a second, what is the depth of cover?
- PH The geology dips towards Bowmans Creek and the depth of cover ranges from 35-40 metres to 100 metres
- RR What is the depth of the access road?
- PH The geology dips from 35-40 metres to 100 metres
- BW Subsidence predictions do take into account depth of cover and seam thickness
- PH The road is an obvious major issue and is very difficult to move due to topography. Without final subsidence predictions we are opting to leave the road in place and manage on a daily basis.
- Alistair Bowman has additional ideas such as speed limits and warning signs.
- MM He is relatively positive then?
- PH Yes, he is very helpful and positive. He has also suggested that we straighten out the road as part of our general maintenance regime.
- RR You need to make sure you have enough flexibility in the management plan to deal with anything that is hard to predict. I am expecting cracking and humps but it would be difficult to predict their location etc.
- BW Yes, we need to look at all possibilities.
- PH The final predictions may also change from the preliminary ones provided.

- MM What is your proposed timing?
- BW We are looking to start extraction in February 2007, finishing at the end of 2009.
- PH Farm fences are on our property and generally not in good condition to start with. They may need a revamp during mining.
- MM The southern point of longwall 1 goes into private land. Have you done any land capability studies?
- PH We need to map the aquifer, which is happening at the moment.
- RR Are you looking to stay away from the aquifer?
- PH Yes, there will be no subsidence of the aquifer.
- RR DNR should also be a stakeholder in this process.
- MM Fergus has been consulted but should be included in this process [consultation meetings]
- PH We will include this in the minutes and send to Fergus
- JW At this stage we are looking at panels 1 to 4 then using these predictions and monitoring results in future SMPs.
- PH Powerlines - we are currently in consultation with EnergyAustralia and negotiating management options.
- Bowmans Creek will not be impacted by these longwalls.
- The residence - we lease one in our property that is unlikely to be impacted this pass. The lessee is clear on subsidence and will develop a farm management plan for us in the future. He does irrigate at some times.
- The sheds we are using ourselves so no major issues.
- Threatened species - there are a couple of threatened birds, the grey crowned babbler and the speckled warbler here in the conservation area and near Bowmans Creek. There will be no impact on these species from subsidence. Our management plans may actually enhance the habitat value.
- There is also a River Red Gum population along Bowmans Creek but it is outside of these panels.
- ML What is the conservation area for?
- PH It was a green offset [refer to map] this area has fauna habitat and archaeological deposits although it is highly degraded.

- BW The power lines may need to be moved in that area, it is just something that we need to be aware of.
- RR Just back tracking a bit, the aquifer, is it off longwall 1?
- PH [refer to map] here at the end of longwall 1 and near Glennies Creek. We will step back from the one at the end of longwall 1 if need be following mapping.
- MM And Fergus has been involved?
- BW Yes, there are a series of aquifers over the area as well as the one off the end of longwall 1
- MM You mentioned archaeological deposits before.
- PH There are a number of scatters on the ridge.
- JW [refer to map] There are scatters on the ridges as well as in the conservation area. There are also axe grinding grooves in the creek.
- AK The archaeology survey in the EIS is very detailed. We will also get an archaeologist out on the field to map the extent of the sites. Some significant sites at the oxbow and grinding grooves in the creeks will be detailed in the management plan. There is also already severe bank erosion in these areas.
- MM Is the BCA already locked in?
- PH Not yet, it just needs to be signed off.
- ML A map showing the application area in context of the lease area should be included in the SMP.
- BW Do we show just show longwall 1 to 4, or all of them?
- ML It is preferable to show where you are headed.
- PH We will show 1 to 4 in black and the others greyed as they may change as a result of monitoring.
- ML The land appears to be undulating
- PH Yes, the land over longwalls 1 to 4 are relative flat grazing land sloping towards Bowmans Creek. There is also existing erosion on the banks.
- RR Given the low depth of cover and potential significant impacts to the surface, you will need to provide a surface management plan.
- PSC need geotech assessment where creek comes close to longwall 1. Should get a civil engineer to look at the slope in regards to slope stability.



- PH Yes, as it is a pinch point of the creek.
- MM The maintenance regime will be important as there is likely to be some impact. What is the timeframe for management and remediation?
- PH This will be based on the risk assessment. We expect regular inspections and if it looks like issues will develop then we will manage them accordingly.
- MM Because of the low depth of cover there is likely to be lots of impact to the surface and you will have to ensure that you are on top of the maintenance and monitoring.
- ML Are there cattle over the application area?
- BW Yes, the land is leased for grazing.
- PH We will wait for subsidence impact predictions before we decide on management measures.
- AK We are running the risk workshop next week with Ashton and ERM personnel. Is there anyone else we should involve in the workshop?
- MM I think you have enough expertise on site and it would be too late to organise anyone else at this stage so just see how you go.
- BW Are there any PSE issues we need to be aware of?
- RR Not relating to this SMP. You might want to look at the pot hole management plan for the highway.
- ML What date are you looking to submit the SMP.
- PH We are looking at completing the draft in July, submitting in late July, unless any other issues need in depth assessment. We are looking to start in January which provides the 6 months review time.
- ML Due to resourcing we would want to know estimates on time frames for SMPs over the next two years.
- RR You will need to do various studies/assessments during this one for the next lot i.e. caving
- PH Yes, we are and Fergus is involved.
- RR The more information you get out of these panels then it will greatly assist in the next SMP.
- BW We may look to resign longwall 1 and then monitor progressively as mining continues.

RR I do not see any other issues. Can we have a look on site?

PH Yes, do you want to look at the slopes on Glennies Creek?

BW Are there any issues you see on timing and our projected start time in February.

ML No issues and February is fine.

JW The guidelines require six hard copies of the final report, is this still the case?

ML I will email you a list of the number of reports and agencies.

JW Summary of process from here as per the agenda.

**Meeting close 10.45am**

**Meeting  
Minutes**

**Subject/Job Number** 0048045

**Venue** Hickson Street, Merewether

**Date of Meeting** 16 June 2006

**Present** A. Bowman, A. Kerr and J. Woodhouse

**Distribution**

**Date** 16/06/2006

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<b>Item</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Action By/Date</b>
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1. Meeting objective – to receive comments from AB regarding the draft Access Road SMP and draft management options summary for property no. 130

2. AB questions:

- Will there be mining over Christmas and therefore anyone to contact if something happens?
- What is the progress of the longwall machine each week? Please confirm.

3. Comments on Access Road SMP:

- Agrees with idea of using alternative route if necessary – particularly for longwall 2.
- Need to emphasise the need to review plan at the end of each panel.
- Draft SMP isn't clear that it applies to entire access road from New England Highway to the house.
- Milk tankers – actually two movements on a daily basis. Usually only takes half an hour between ingoing trip and outgoing trip.
- Timing of inspections – should be as soon before tanker arrival as possible, as coordinated with the dairy manager. Tankers may arrive 24 hours, but usually not before 7:30am or after 8:00pm. SMP to include liaison between Ashton staff, dairy manager, and tanker company.
- Should be noted that any Ashton staff or contractors require permission from property owner prior to entry onto Property No. 130.
- Reference to 1.x metres of subsidence – should note that the plan and subsidence impacts relate only to extraction of the Pikes Gully Seam.
- Include table on subsidence progression (i.e. how much, by when)
- Elaborate discussion on signposting, change to moving signs weekly.
- Notification – should be both property owner and occupants.

Item	Description	Action By/Date
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- Trees within vicinity of road reserve – not mentioned in plan. Plan should identify if they are a traffic risk (i.e. falling over the road) and if so, be removed prior to commencement of mining.
  - What happens if a hazard occurs between inspections? Ashton contact person – will be responsible for fixing the problem as soon as possible.
  - Inspections may need to note condition of trees within Right of Way.
  - Daily inspections would need to be carried out with enough time to erect ‘alternative route’ signage if needed – before tanker arrived. (i.e. if tanker makes it halfway in – they will not be able to turn around).
  - A requirement of the tanker company is that there are NO GATES along the entire route to the dairy.
  - Critical that the cattle grid on the highway and on the property boundary (No. 130) is maintained.
4. Management of Surface Structures
- Add hay shed to list.
  - Machinery shed has a concrete floor, steel frame.
  - Subsurface pipes from tank are HDPE *water* not irrigation pipes.
  - Add fuel tank to list (elevated 1000L diesel fuel tank on three-legged steel frame.
  - Farm dam and contour banks in south west corner of longwall 1.
  - Note distance to the house – is it affected?
  - Cracking of water supply pipes may lead to loss of either fresh (domestic) water or stock water.
  - Discussion of MSB – would like to see explanation of how Ashton will handle this (i.e. will organise reconstruction/repairs for property owner as well as ensuring the compensation process is expeditious. AB would like to see Ashton’s role in this outlined explicitly, and to his satisfaction.
  - Needs to be a mechanism by which AB or occupants can contact Ashton with any concerns. (i.e. nominated contact person).
5. AB leaving for overseas on 21 June 06. Will be able to receive and review management plans by email.

Environmental Resources Management Australia		
Referred to:	6048045	AK
Date Received	30 JUN 2006	
Checked By:	AK	Date 30/6/06

In reply please send to: Singleton

Our reference: FN02-00009S0 GM:SA

Your reference: 0048045L10MSB.DOC

Contact: Garry Moore (02) 6572 4344

ERM  
 PO BOX 71  
 THORNTON NSW 2322

26 June 2006

ATTENTION: AMANDA KERR

Dear Ms Kerr

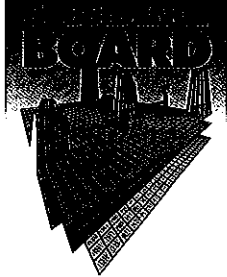
ENQUIRY NO. TENQ06-00749S3  
APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF A SUBSIDENCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Thank you for your letter dated 19<sup>th</sup> May 2006 seeking the Mine Subsidence Board's input to the preparation of a Subsidence Management Plan.

The site is located within the Patrick Plains Mine Subsidence District. It is therefore a requirement of Section 15 of the Mine Subsidence Compensation Act that all surface improvements and relocation of surface improvements are approved by the Mine Subsidence Board.

The information provided shows that the development will be an underground mining operation. The Board would request that the Subsidence Management Plan address the impact of mine subsidence on existing structures as covered under the Mine Subsidence Compensation Act. Some of the issues which may need to be addressed are attached. If there is to be no impact from mine subsidence, then this should be clearly outlined in the Subsidence Management Plan.

Standard (Auto) Enquiries



**HEAD OFFICE:**

PO Box 488G  
 Newcastle 2300  
 Telephone: (02) 4908 4395  
 Facsimile: (02) 4929 1032

**NEWCASTLE:**

NSW Government Offices  
 117 Bull Street  
 Newcastle West 2302  
 PO Box 488G  
 Newcastle 2300  
 Telephone: (02) 4908 4300  
 Facsimile: (02) 4929 1032  
 DX 4322 Newcastle West

**SPEERS POINT**

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 Speers Point 2284  
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 Facsimile: (02) 4950 8101  
 DX 7820 Newcastle

**WYONG:**

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 30 Hely Street  
 Wyong 2259  
 PO Box 157 Wyong 2259  
 Telephone: (02) 4352 1646  
 Facsimile: (02) 4352 1757  
 DX 7317 Wyong

**SINGLETON:**

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 Telephone: (02) 6572 4344  
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**PICTON:**

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 Facsimile: (02) 4677 2040  
 DX 26053 Picton

**EMAIL:**  
 mail@minesub.nsw.gov.au

**WEBSITE:**  
 www.minesub.nsw.gov.au



Some of the issues, which you may consider addressing, are:-

1. Prediction of maximum subsidence, strains, tilts and curvatures.
2. Assessment of likely impacts of coal extraction.
3. Type of surface structures and likely damage.
4. Measures which might be employed to mitigate the effects of mine subsidence.
5. Details regarding the angle of draw.
6. Vibration monitoring and likelihood of extraction related vibrations.
7. Effect of subsidence on farm dams, ground water systems and survey marks.
8. Subsidence monitoring.
9. Pre-mining inspections.
10. Mine Subsidence Board requirements.

Yours faithfully



Garry Moore  
District Manager

ASHTON COAL OPERATIONS PTY LIMITED

# **Subsidence Management Plan Longwall Panels 1 to 4**

## **Presentation to the Community**

**29<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2006**



# What is a Subsidence Management Plan (SMP)?

- Identifies area affected by subsidence
- Predicts level of subsidence
- Quantifies and assesses likely impacts to surface and sub-surface features
- Details pre-mining baseline studies and monitoring
- Provides specific management and monitoring plans to manage impacts
- Outlines contingency plans should an unanticipated event occur
- The SMP for longwalls 1 to 4 is being prepared by ERM

Mining can only commence once the SMP is approved by the Director-General of the Department of Mineral Resources







# What is the SMP process?

## **Stakeholder Consultation:**

One of the 1st steps in the process is to consult stakeholders

## **Prepare Written Report:**

Description of area and proposal

Subsidence predictions

Summary of potential impacts

Description of community consultation process

## **Prepare SMP:**

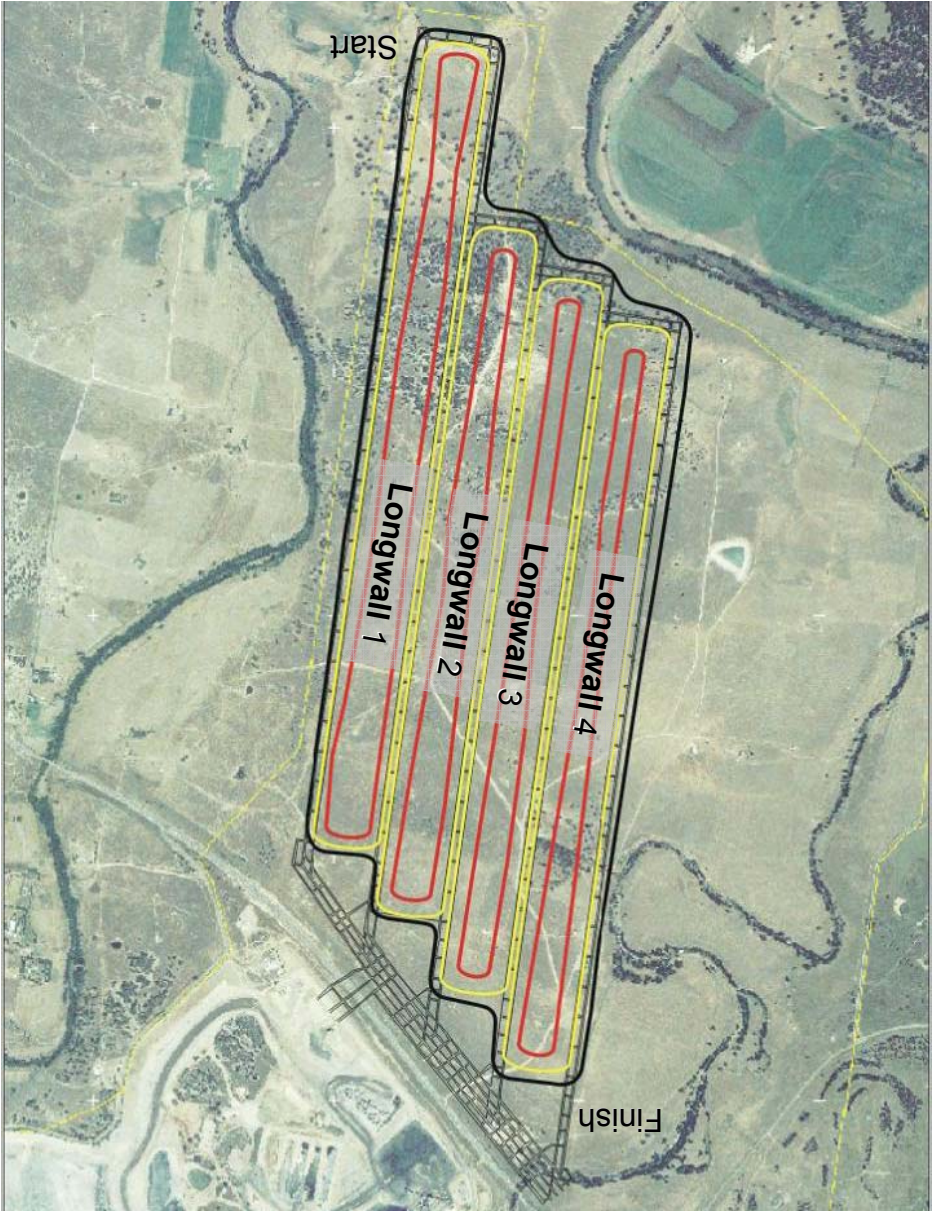
Includes all necessary management plans to address subsidence impacts identified by the written report and consultation process.

## **Apply for SMP Approval**

Six month approval process, including public exhibition and submission period.



# The Application Area



- Pikes Gully Seam
- LW 1 to 4 only
- Longwall 1 commencing in February 2007
- Longwall 4 completion in 2009

Final Subsidence Contours

- 1500mm
- 100mm
- 20mm





# Application Area Details

Distances to major features:

- Bowmans Creek
  - Longwall panel edge - 60 metres
  - Edge of subsidence impact zone XX metres
- Glennies Creek
  - Longwall panel XX metres
  - Edge of subsidence impact zone XX metres
- Hunter River
  - Longwall panel XX metres
  - Edge of subsidence impact zone XX metres
- New England Highway
  - Longwall panel XX metres
  - Edge of subsidence impact zone XX metres

Seam depth ranges from 30 to 155 metres

Subsidence impact zone is based on an Angle of Draw of 26.5 degrees which is a very conservative approach

Seam width varies from 2.4 to 2.7 metres thick



# What is subsidence?

Potential movements are:

*Vertical subsidence* - lowering of the land's surface which can occur above shallow underground mines.

*Horizontal displacement* – horizontal movement of the land's surface

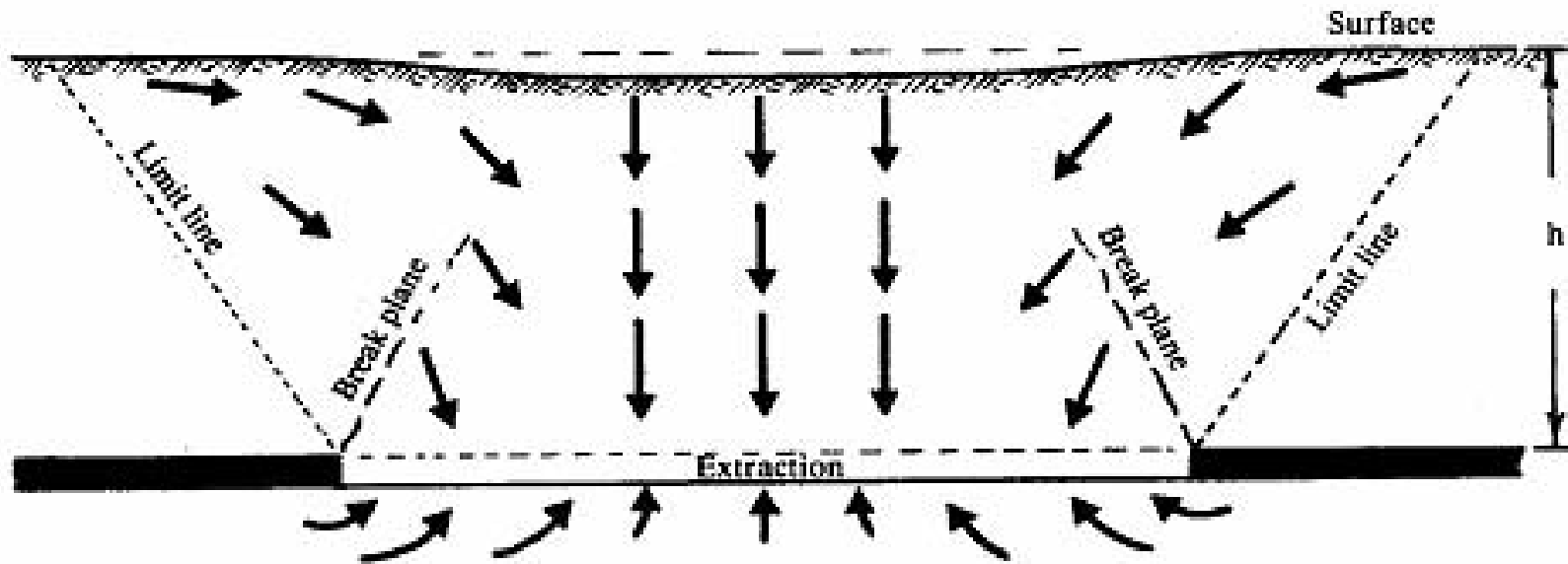
*Horizontal strains (tensile or compressive)* – caused by differential movements at the surface which change the length of the surface between two points.

*Curvature* – results when vertical subsidence is greater at one point than another, creating a surface curve between these points.





# What is subsidence?



Ground movement directions across longwall extraction







# Stakeholder and Community Consultation

Relevant stakeholders have been identified and the different groups were addressed individually.

## Land owners

A series of meetings have been conducted with private landowner within the Application Area.

## Utilities and service owners

Ongoing consultation to ascertain location of services and discuss management plan requirements

## General Community

Advertising in local and state newspapers  
CCC meeting

Ongoing consultation (anyone may contact ACOL or ERM with comments)  
Exhibition of SMP





# Subsidence Predictions

- Subsidence predictions have been performed by SCT Pty Ltd.
- Estimated maximum subsidence from the Pikes Gully Seam extraction is predicted to be 1.8 metres
- Estimated surface strains of 23-73mm/m in tension and 31-98mm/m in compression are expected. Tension cracks and compression humps of up to several hundred mm are possible.
- Estimated ground tilt of 80-250mm/m is likely to develop.





# Surface and Sub-surface Features Potentially Impacted by Subsidence

- Archaeological sites may be impacted by erosion or surface cracking
- Flora and fauna habitat can be altered by erosion, cracking & drainage
- Fences can tilt/fall over (gates may not close)
- Dams may crack
- Utilities (powerlines/cables) and buildings can be broken or damaged
- Surface drainage patterns can be altered
- Erosion can be initiated
- Groundwater quality and depths may vary
- Slope movement
- Roads may form cracks or humps within the pavement

Not all subsidence causes damage - the SMP will provide management strategies to address all potential impacts.





# Baseline Studies and Monitoring

- **Subsidence Prediction**
  - Surveys and draft report completed SCT Pty Ltd
- **Hydrogeology**
  - Surveys and draft report completed by Peter Dundon & Associates
- **Archaeology**
  - Surveys and report completed by Dan Witter in 1991
  - Additional management measures to be provided by ERM
- **Ecology**
  - EIS completed by HLA-Envirosciences in 2001
  - Various assessments and on-going monitoring surveys by ERM
- **Infrastructure**
  - Pre-mining surveys, photographs & inspections being carried out as required by Ashton Coal



# Assessing Subsidence Impacts

- Reports and findings from baseline studies and community consultation were used as a basis for identifying and quantifying risk.
- An externally facilitated risk workshop was carried out as per the SMP Guidelines
- The risk workshop identified areas of concern which require specific management and monitoring plans



# Specific Management Plans

Specific Subsidence Management Plans required:

Access Road (unsealed private road)

- Farm Fences
- Farm Dams
- Aboriginal Heritage
- Flora and Fauna Habitats
- Powerline
- Telstra cable
- Land Management Plan
- Surface Drainage/Ponding
- Property No. 130 and associated built infrastructure
- Public Safety

Groundwater management is being addressed by Ashton's Groundwater Management Plan



# Groundwater Management

Preliminary estimates are that some increase in water loss from Glennies Creek may occur along the coal seam (which outcrops along the creek):

- Existing water losses estimated at 5kL per day
- Immediately post-mining of LWP1 – 50kL per day
- 50kL is approximately equivalent to the flowrate of a typical farm windmill

- Additional drilling is currently being undertaken to confirm the alluvial aquifers, coal seam permeability, bedrock and aquaclude properties
- All groundwater investigations, monitoring and management plans are being prepared in consultation with the Department of Natural Resources

- Ashton is required to ensure no direct connection between Bowmans Creek alluvium and the underground mine workings can occur through subsidence cracking





# Groundwater Management

- To ensure no hydraulic connection is formed, the following are being conducted:
  - drilling to map the saturated alluvium of Bowmans Creek, Glennies Creek and the Hunter River in more detail and determine substrate properties
  - development of a detailed groundwater model and monitoring program
- During mining Ashton will monitor the following:
  - Mine inflows - increases in flow or changes in quality may indicate a hydraulic connection is forming and trigger levels have been developed to indicate when investigative or remediation action is required
  - Groundwater monitoring bores – water depth and quality
- Where the development adversely affects groundwater users, Ashton will liaise with affected users to provide a replacement supply of similar quality and quantity until such time as the impact has ceased
- If impacts are identified, it is a condition of consent that Ashton will develop and implement contingency plans to remediate the impact as soon as possible



# Access Road Management Plan

- New England Highway is outside the subsidence zone – may see horizontal movements of up to 3mm.
- Main access road is an unsealed private road located within the registered right of way to Property No. 130.
- No other roads will be impacted by subsidence.
- May see some surface cracking, compression humps and changes in grade.
- Visual inspections and photographic monitoring will be used to detect changes
- Signs will be erected at both ends of the road to warn motorists of potential subsidence impacts
- Alternative access route will be upgraded and maintained
- Monthly notification of longwall face position, relative to the road will be provided to landowners
- Repairs will be carried out as required by Ashton Coal, in consultation with the Mine Subsidence Board and individual landowners



# Farm Fence Management Plan

- No fences outside the Ashton Property and Property 130 will be impacted by subsidence. Impacts to fencing on the two properties will be managed to prevent unplanned stock movements.
- There are a number of fences within the subsidence impact zone.
- Subsidence is likely to cause tension or sag in the wires. Tilting of the gate's hinge post may result in the gate being unable to fully close or open.
- Visual inspections will be used to detect any damage.
- Repairs to fences will be carried out as required by Ashton Coal, in consultation with the landowner.
- Temporary electric fences will also be placed in advance of the longwall face, to keep livestock off the subsidence impact zone for the individual longwall.
- Temporary electric fencing will be supplied by Ashton Coal if the damage to fences risks unplanned stock movements.



# Farm Dam Management Plan

- No farm dams outside the Ashton Property and Property 130 will be impacted by subsidence.
- There are nine farm dams identified in the subsidence impact zone. They are fed predominantly by overland flow and utilised for stock watering.
- Farm dams may experience some damage as a result of cracking and some storage capacity changes due to tilt and changes in elevation.
- Visual inspections, photographic monitoring and post-mining surveys will be used to detect any changes in condition and storage capacity. Temporary signs will be erected by ACOL downstream of the two large dams to warn of the potential risk of sudden flooding.
- ACOL has committed to maintaining farm dams with respect to integrity and capacity. Repair to the dams and water replenishment will be carried out as required by ACOL.





# Aboriginal Heritage Management Plan

- A number of significant archaeological sites are found within the Application Area.
- Grinding grooves are most susceptible to subsidence damage due to cracking, however none will be affected during LWP1-4.
- Artefact scatters may be impacted through the initiation or erosion or surface ponding.
- Assessment of the sites and consultation with the local Aboriginal community will be undertaken at the commencement of LWP 1 and 3 to assess which sites are at risk during the subsequent two panels.
- Where sites are identified as “likely to be damaged” – a permit application to record and salvage the sites will be submitted to Department of Environment and Conservation (NPWS) with adequate lead time to allow an ordered salvage operation prior to the subsidence impact
- Remaining sites will continue to be monitored for the duration of the mine operation

# Flora and Fauna Management Plan

- Surface cracking and tilting may cause some groups of trees to lean permanently at tilts of up to about 250mm/m.
- Individual trees with roots directly impacted by surface cracks may fall over.
- It will be more difficult to remediate surface cracking that occurs through the woodland areas without causing further impacts. Cattle may need to be restricted in these areas until such times as natural remediation has filled any cracks that develop.
- Overall loss of trees is not expected to be high and will be offset by planned revegetation works within the Conservation Area.
- Trees that pose a potential public safety hazard (i.e. large trees near the access road) will be removed prior to mining.
- Threatened species known to be in the subsidence area will not be significantly impacted by subsidence effects (Grey Crowned Babbler and Speckled Warbler).



# Powerline Management Plan

- There are several powerlines traversing the subsidence impact zone being a combination of 11kV up to 132kV
- The 11kV powerlines traverse the northern end of longwall 4 and service the two property dwellings. These poles may tilt up to 80mm/m. The line has been assessed as likely to remain serviceable however, it may be necessary place the wires in temporary sheeves and re-straighten the single timber poles as part of normal line maintenance post-subsidence
- The 132kV powerlines traverse the southern end of longwalls 1 to 4 and subsidence movements are likely to compromise the serviceability of the dual and triple pole structures.
- Ashton Coal are consulting with EnergyAustralia to formulate a management and monitoring plan including potential realignment of the 132kV powerline outside of the Application Area.



# Teistra Cable Management Plan

- There is a buried Teistra cable servicing property No. 130 as well as other residences within the Ashton Coal Property.
- Risk of damage to the cabling is considered to be highly likely
- Ashton Coal have commissioned a telecommunications consultant, to facilitate a management plan with Teistra to manage potential subsidence impacts
- Repairs to infrastructure will be carried out as required at the expense of Ashton Coal





# Surface Drainage Management Plan

- Ashton Coal are required to manage the impact of subsidence on surface water drainage paths and any areas of potential ponding.
- Areas of potential ponding have been identified from subsidence predictions using predicted post-mining surface contours.
- Visual inspections will be carried out after rain events to identify any ponding or drainage issues.
- Repair and remediation works will be carried out by ACOI as required.



# Property No. 130 Management Plan

- Consolidates potential impacts of subsidence on the single private landholding ('Property No. 130') affected by the proposal
- Potentially affected features without specific management plans are:
  - farm machinery shed
  - concrete water tanks and subsurface irrigation pipes
  - cattle grids and gates
- Visual inspections, photographic monitoring and post-mining surveys will be used to detect any changes in condition and status of the infrastructure
- Monthly notification of longwall face position, relative to the property will be provided to landowner
- Repairs will be carried out as required by Ashton Coal, in consultation with the MSB and landowner



# Public Safety Management Plan

- Identifies potential public safety issues as a result of subsidence
- Potential impacts to be assessed:
  - Farm dams failing
  - Surface cracking
  - Damage to access roads
  - Damage to buildings
  - Fallen electricity transmission lines
- As a condition of consent, warning signage and “Private Property” signs will be placed near the entry of the property to warn authorised site visitors to the dangers of being within a subsidence area
- Regular site monitoring will identify potential public safety hazards and these will be roped off until remediation works can be carried out by Ashton.



# Addressing Community Concerns

The main concern expressed by the general community to date is that of groundwater impacts.

Subsidence predictions, groundwater studies and ongoing monitoring are being prepared and will be detailed in the SMP application.

The SMP application is required to document all consultation activities undertaken, and address as fully as possible, all issues raised by the community and other stakeholders.







# The Process From Here

- The final SMP document will tie all the subsidence management strategies together
- Ashton Coal expects to have the final SMP document ready for submission by 31 July 2006.
- At that time advertisements will be placed in local and state newspapers.
- Stakeholders and members of the community who feel their concerns have not been adequately addressed in the SMP will have the opportunity to make submissions to the Department of Primary Industries – Mineral Resources within 30 days of the SMP submission.

**Anyone who wishes to comment on the proposal is urged to contact ERM on 02 4964 2150 or the Ashton Coal Environmental Hotline on 1800 657 639**



**Meeting  
Minutes**

53 Bonville Avenue  
Thornton NSW 2322  
AUSTRALIA  
PO Box 71  
Thornton NSW 2322  
AUSTRALIA  
www.erm.com

**Subject/Job Number** 0048045

**Venue** ACOL Site Office

**Date of Meeting** 29 June 2006

**Present** See below

**Distribution** -

**Date** 29/06/2006

Telephone: 61 2 4964-2150  
Facsimile: 61 2 4964-2152



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<b>Item</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Action By/Date</b>
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	<b>Presentation to the Ashton CCC and wider community - Public Meeting</b>	<b>29/6/2006</b>
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1. Attendance:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>ACOL</b>                                     | <b>Mike Chapman, General Manager (MC)</b><br><b>Peter Barton, Development Manager (PB)</b><br><b>Brian Wesley, Underground Mine Manager (BW)</b><br><b>James Grebert, Mine Engineer (JG)</b><br><b>Peter Horn, Environmental Officer (PH)</b><br><b>Tracey Rock, Technical Services Manager (TR)</b><br><b>Sherry Russell (SR)</b> |
| <b>Ashton CCC</b>                               | <b>Brian Thomas, Chairman (BT)</b><br><b>Thelma DeJong, Community Representative (TD)</b><br><b>Deidre Olofsson, Community Representative (DO)</b><br><b>John McInerney, Community Representative (JM)</b><br><b>Fred Harvison, Singleton Shire Council (FH)</b>   |
| <b>Community Members</b>                        | <b>Colin Stapleton (CS)</b><br><b>Dolcie Stapleton (DS)</b><br><b>Phil Holz (PH2)</b><br><b>Judy McInerney (JI)</b><br><b>John Vollebregt (JV)</b><br><b>Tracey Clarke (TC)</b>  |
| <b>Environmental Resources Management (ERM)</b> | <b>Amanda Kerr, (minute taker) (AK)</b><br><b>Joanne Woodhouse (JW)</b>  |

Item	Description	Action By/Date
	<b>Presentation to the Ashton CCC and wider community - Public Meeting</b>	<b>29/6/2006</b>
2.	<p><b>Presentation</b> PH presented a powerpoint presentation titled, <i>Ashton Coal Operations Limited Subsidence Management Plan Longwall Panels 1 to 4 Presentation to the Community, 29 June 2006</i> as attached.</p>	
3.	<p><b>Discussion:</b></p> <p><b>CS:</b> With respect to longwall panel 1 - will it be below the Common/TSR?</p> <p><b>PH:</b> No it won't be.</p> <p><b>CS:</b> And the application is for the first seam?</p> <p><b>PH:</b> That's correct.</p> <p><b>CS:</b> Will the future panels below be under the same line and make much deeper troughs in the middle?</p> <p><b>PH:</b> Ashton doesn't have approval for subsequent panels as yet.</p> <p><b>JG:</b> The panel design isn't confirmed and can be offset so that the chainpillars don't line up if necessary.</p> <p><b>PH2:</b> How wide is each panel?</p> <p><b>PH:</b> 206 metres</p> <p><b>BT:</b> For the public exhibition, are you required to make copies available and where can people get access? Will the CCC be given a copy?</p> <p><b>PH:</b> The exhibition will be advertised, and copies available at Ashton, Council, DPI and the website. Very large document, so we can give the CCC a summary.</p> <p><b>CS:</b> During mining you mentioned a maximum predicted increase of 14 <math>\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}</math> salinity increase - what happens after mining?</p> <p><b>PH:</b> That impact would be expected to tail off over time.</p> <p><b>JV:</b> What is the current salinity in the river?</p> <p><b>PH:</b> Approximately 900 <math>\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}</math>.</p> <p><b>JV:</b> So the 2000 <math>\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}</math> you mentioned as a trigger level - what about that?</p> <p><b>PH:</b> That is for water quality in the aquifer. Note that 14 <math>\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}</math> is a very small number.</p>	

Item	Description	Action By/Date
	<b>Presentation to the Ashton CCC and wider community - Public Meeting</b>	<b>29/6/2006</b>
	<b>JV:</b> When will you find out if you are impacting the Hunter River?	
	<b>BW:</b> Drilling over the next month will confirm if we are impacting the saturated Hunter River alluvium or not. If we are – that may result in the shortening of the southern end of longwall panel 1.	
	<b>JV:</b> Have we determined a baseline for groundwater quality?	
	<b>PH:</b> Continuous monitoring since 2001 so we have enough data for a good baseline assessment, with monitoring including upstream and downstream bores. Ashton also has a strong interest in ensuring groundwater quality is maintained.	
	<b>PH2:</b> The estimated leakage of water out of Glennies Creek of 50kL/day – what is that in ML?	
	<b>PH:</b> 0.5 ML. In comparison to overall flow in Glennies Creek, it is a negligible amount.	
	<b>PH:</b> But we are in drought at the moment..	
	<b>PH2:</b> Water in the creek is already currently draining into the coal seam which crops up in the botton of Glennies Creek.	
	<b>PH2</b> Will you be pumping that out?	
	<b>PH:</b> It will be part of the mine water make, and will be salty so will go to the process water dam.	
	?: Have you discharged into Bowmans Creek?	
	<b>PH:</b> No	
	?: With that heavy rain we got and the dam overflowed- where did the water go?	
	<b>PB:</b> It was pumped to the tailings dam and no water left the site.	
	?: Do you have to pay for water coming into the pit?	
	<b>PH:</b> Yes, its part of the mine water. We are required to monitor the flow and quality. Water taken out of the creek is used for potable use.	
	When are the following panels going ahead?	

Item	Description	Action By/Date
	<b>Presentation to the Ashton CCC and wider community - Public Meeting</b>	<b>29/6/2006</b>
	<b>PH:</b> Approximately 2008	
	<b>CS:</b> Will you have enough info from longwall panel 4 to get approval	
	<b>PH:</b> All four panels will be monitored, and also some recent drilling near Bowmans Creek oxbow found bedrock.	
	<b>CS:</b> What are the next panels? Underneath or in the same seam?	
	<b>PH:</b> Same seam - so to the west. If ACOL don't have enough information from monitoring of longwall panels 1 to 4, they will have to try to get it as each set of panels requires an SMP approval (eight or nine SMPs to be prepared over the whole life of the mine).	
	<b>?:</b> With the water quality impacts you mentioned - they are only for longwall panels 1 to 4?	
	<b>PH:</b> The 14 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ in the Hunter River and nil impact on Glennies Creek is for the life of the mine. The impacts on Bowmans Creek will depend on investigation and design of future panels.	
	<b>JV:</b> What are the surface water monitoring locations?	
	(PH pointed these out from memory on plan)	
	<b>JV:</b> Where is the monitoring location located on the Hunter River? (Shown by PH as being slightly upstream of longwall panels 1 to 4)	
	<b>JV:</b> What about downstream of the longwall panels and the junction of Glennies Creek so that you can pick up a change in water quality before you have the different water from Glennies coming in?	
	<b>PH:</b> That's a valid point, I will confirm all the locations and let you know.	
	<b>CS:</b> Will there be any gas stacks on the site?	
	<b>BW:</b> Not for the Pikes Gully Seam at all. Maybe only for deeper seams.	
	<b>CS:</b> When will you find that out?	
	<b>BW:</b> To some extent, we already have some really good data and models so we are pretty confident.	
	<b>PB:</b> With respect to the gas drainage question - will just let you know that we are having discussions with Macquarie Generation to pipe gas over to them.	

Item	Description	Action By/Date
	<b>Presentation to the Ashton CCC and wider community - Public Meeting</b>	<b>29/6/2006</b>
	<b>BW:</b> But again – that’s for further down the track, not for this seam.	
	<b>CS:</b> Will there be any ventilation spots?	
	<b>BW:</b> None.	
	<b>CS:</b> So just a vent or a hole?	
	<b>BW:</b> Possibly, that’s an option, but it is not yet finalised.	
	<b>CS:</b> What about lower seams?	
	<b>JG:</b> Designed to be extracted by the fan from here.	
	<b>DO:</b> Is there any chance of cracking Glennies Creek?	
	<b>BW:</b> All the modelling and predictions are indicating that it wont happen.	
	<b>DO:</b> If it does, how will you fix it?	
	<b>JG:</b> There are ways to stop water coming through strata using grout or PUR which is like a glue which you pump in and it expands as it goes.	
	<b>DO:</b> Does it work?	
	<b>JG:</b> Yes – for example there are mines under lakes and rivers, i.e. Myuna.	
	<b>?:</b> Who checks the sediment/water?	
	<b>PH:</b> Contractors and Ashton	
	<b>DO:</b> How do you guarantee water quality?	
	<b>PH:</b> All we can do is follow our consent and requirements and report this to the government departments. You can also go to them if you feel there are any problems you don’t think we are addressing.	
	<b>CS:</b> How far east are you going? What about the travelling stock reserve and fencing?	
	<b>PH:</b> We are not affecting the TSR, and any impacts we have offsite – like fences under too much strain or being pulled over – we will fix.	
	<b>?:</b> What about powerlines?	
	<b>PH:</b> Only likely to impact the 132kV line through the middle of the site and we	

Item	Description	Action By/Date
	<p data-bbox="300 309 1278 338"><b>Presentation to the Ashton CCC and wider community – Public Meeting</b></p> <p data-bbox="300 376 983 409">are talking to EnergyAustralia about managing that.</p> <p data-bbox="300 448 967 481">Dust in the opencut – any way of it being reduced?</p> <p data-bbox="300 519 1353 667"><b>BW:</b> Do you mean the spasmodic dust near the face of the highwall? (yes) from stone dusting at the face and is noticeable at the moment given how close we are to the highwall. We're required to use the dust by law, however it should reduce as we get further away from the fan.</p> <p data-bbox="300 705 767 739"><b>JJ:</b> Are you still looking at 20 years?</p> <p data-bbox="300 777 810 810"><b>PH:</b> Yes – its still the same time period.</p> <p data-bbox="300 848 1286 916"><b>DO:</b> The washery is going 7 days at the moment, will that increase with the increased coal production?</p> <p data-bbox="300 954 560 987"><b>PH:</b> Yes eventually.</p> <p data-bbox="300 1025 571 1059">What about tailings?</p> <p data-bbox="300 1097 1345 1279"><b>PB:</b> Washery is currently operating extended hours, however a new CHPP module is due to be completed by the end of the year which should drop the washery operation back to 5 days. Tailings are being heavily flocked and put in overburden area. Also looking at negotiations with Macquarie Generation to dispose of tailings in a new dam there.</p> <p data-bbox="300 1317 628 1350">How do you get it there?</p> <p data-bbox="300 1388 879 1422"><b>PB:</b> Pump it and bring the spare water back.</p> <p data-bbox="300 1460 852 1494"><b>No more questions – meeting concluded.</b></p>	<b>29/6/2006</b>

11 October, 2006

[See distribution list attached]

*Our Reference:* 0048045 CONSULTATION LETTER 01.DOC



Dear Sir/Madam,

**RE: APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF A SUBSIDENCE  
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Ashton Coal Operations Pty Limited (Ashton Coal) is intending to lodge a Subsidence Management Plan application to the Department of Primary Industries (Minerals) for longwall panels 1 to 4. The intention to lodge a Subsidence Management Plan has been advertised in the Singleton Argus and the Sydney Morning Herald.

The object of the plan is to ensure appropriate subsidence management strategies are in place for the mining of longwall panels 1 to 4 at Ashton Coal Mine. These strategies are aimed at minimising the impacts of subsidence on surface and subsurface features.

Ashton Coal would like to advise all stakeholders that the SMP will be on public exhibition at the Department of Primary Industries (Minerals) office in Maitland, and the Ashton Coal Site Office. Electronic copies can also be requested via Ashton's website ([www.ashtoncoal.com.au](http://www.ashtoncoal.com.au)).

All interested parties are invited to provide submissions directly to the Department of Primary Industries (Minerals) regarding aspects of the subsidence management plan that are of particular interest to them.

Should you have any questions about this application, please contact Ashton Coal on 02 65 761 111 or 1800 657 639.

Yours sincerely,  
for Environmental Resources Management Australia Pty Ltd

Amanda Kerr  
Environmental Engineer

Peter Southern  
Partner



## Distribution List

Public Utility Owners	Telstra	Mr Ray Munt Network Integrity Services Telstra Corporation Ltd Locked Bag 5035 Parramatta NSW 2124
	EnergyAustralia	Mr Ian Hall Manager Customer Services EnergyAustralia - Muswellbrook PO Box 196 Muswellbrook NSW 2333
	Powertel	Powertel Level 11, 55 Clarence Street Sydney NSW 2000
Government Agencies	DPI	Michael Lloyd Department of Primary Industries (Minerals) PO Box 344 Hunter Region Mail Centre 2310
	DIPNR	Mr Fergus Hancock Department of Natural Resources Suite 6 464 King Street Newcastle West
	DEC	Executive Director Operations Department of Environment and Conservation PO Box A290 Sydney South NSW 1232
	Registrar of Aboriginal Owners	Registrar of Aboriginal Owners Centennial Plaza Tower B Level 13/280 Elizabeth Street Surry Hills NSW 2010
	Mine Subsidence Board	Mr Gary Moore Mine Subsidence Board PO Box 524 Singleton NSW 2330
	Singleton Shire Council	The General Manager Singleton Shire Council PO Box 314 Singleton NSW 2330
	Roads and Traffic Authority	Mr David Young Manager, Land Use Development Hunter Operations and Services Roads and Traffic Authority Hunter Regional Office Locked Bag 30 Newcastle 2300

Environmental Resources Management Australia	
Referred to:	
Date Received	25 OCT 2006
Checked By:	Date



OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR  
ABORIGINAL LAND RIGHTS ACT 1983 (NSW)

CENTENNIAL PLAZA, TOWER B  
LEVEL 13, 280 ELIZABETH STREET  
SURRY HILLS NSW 2010  
P. 02 9219 0700 F. 02 9219 0770

Amanda Kerr  
Environmental Engineer  
ERM Pty Ltd  
PO Box 71  
Thornton NSW 2322

Dear Amanda

**Re: Request - Search for Registered Aboriginal Owners**

I refer to your letter dated 12 October 2006 advising of Aston Coal Operations Pty Ltd intention to lodge a Subsidence Management Plan for longwall panels 1 to 4 at Ashton Coal Mine, Camberwell, NSW.

I have searched the Register of Aboriginal Owners and the subject land does not appear to have Registered Aboriginal Owners pursuant to Division 3 of the *Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 (NSW)*.

I suggest you contact the Wanuarah Local Aboriginal Land Council (WLALC) as part of your consultation process. The WLALC can be contacted through:

Barry McTaggart  
Wanuarah Local Aboriginal Land Council  
PO Box 127  
Muswellbrook NSW 2333  
Tel. 02 6543 1288  
Fax 02 6542 5377

As you are aware, there are also Native Title Claimants in the Singleton and Muswellbrook LGAs. Details of these groups can be sought through a search of the National Native Title Tribunal.

Regards

Megan Mebberson  
**Project Officer (Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983)**  
**Land Claims and Aboriginal Owners Register**

20 October 2006

26 October 2006

[See Distribution List]

*Our Reference:* 0048045L23.DOC

Dear Sir/Madam,

**RE: ASHTON COAL OPERATIONS SUBSIDENCE MANAGEMENT  
PLAN**



Ashton Coal Operations Pty Limited (Ashton Coal) is preparing a Subsidence Management Plan for submission to the Department of Primary Industries (Minerals). This plan and application is expected to be submitted for approval by the end of October 2006.

The intention to prepare a Subsidence Management Plan was advertised in the Singleton Argus and the Sydney Morning Herald on 12 May 2006. The object of the plan is to ensure appropriate subsidence management strategies are in place for the mining of longwall panels 1 to 4 at Ashton Coal Mine.

Archaeological surveys were carried out over the site in 2002 by Dan Witter in consultation with local Aboriginal community representatives. The results of this survey form the basis of the Cultural Heritage Subsidence Management Plan included in the SMP Application. Further consultation will be undertaken in the event that Section 90 permits are required as result of subsidence induced impacts or remediation works.

The submission of the application will be advertised in the Singleton Argus and the Sydney Morning Herald on Wednesday 1 November 2006. The Application will be available for inspection for a period of 30 days from the date of lodgement, at the Department of Primary Industries (Minerals) office in Maitland, and the Ashton Coal Site Office. Electronic copies can also be requested via Ashton's website ([www.ashtoncoal.com.au](http://www.ashtoncoal.com.au)).

Should you feel that your concerns have not been accurately represented or addressed in the application, written submissions can be made, within 30 days of the application lodgment, to:

The Director  
Environmental Sustainability  
NSW Department of Primary Industries (Minerals)  
PO Box 344  
Hunter Regional Mail Centre NSW 2310

OR

The Mine Manager  
Ashton Coal Operations Pty Ltd  
PO Box 699  
Singleton NSW 2330

Yours sincerely,  
for Environmental Resources Management Australia Pty Ltd



Amanda Kerr  
Environmental Engineer



Peter Southern  
Partner

### Indigenous Groups - Letter Distribution List

FirstName	LastName	Company	Address1	City	State	PostalCode	Telephone	Fax Number
Barry	Anderson	Lower Wonnarua Tribal Consultancy Pty Ltd	156 The Inlet Road	BULGA	NSW	2330	6574 5311	6574 5322
Barry	McTaggart	Wanaruah Local Aboriginal Land Council	17-19 Maitland Street	MUSWELLBROOK	NSW	2333	6543 1288	6542 5377
Victor	Perry	Upper Hunter Wanaruah Council/Upper Hunter Tribal Council	PO Box 184	SINGLETON	NSW	2330	6571 4888	6571 4889
Graham	Ward	Ungooroo Aboriginal Corporation	PO Box 3095	SINGLETON	NSW	2330	6571 5111	6571 5777
John and Margaret	Matthews	Aboriginal Native Title Elder Consultants	31 Mitchell Street	MUSWELLBROOK	NSW	2333	6541 0495	6541 0497
Barbara	Foot	Wanaruah Custodians	PO Box 3066	SINGLETON	NSW	2330	6573 1712	6573 1712
Scott	Franks	YarraWalk	PO Box 906	MUSWELLBROOK	NSW	2333	6541 0445	6541 0445
Des	Hickey	Wattaka Wonnarua C.C. Service	4 Kennedy Street	SINGLETON	NSW	2330	6571 1713	6571 2609

### Indigenous Groups - Letter Distribution List

FirstName	LastName	Company	Address1	City	State	PostalCode	Telephone	Fax Number
Larry	Van Vliet	Valley Culture	140 Sydney St	MUSWELLBROOK	NSW	2333	6542 5445	6542 5652
Christine	Matthews	Hunter Valley Cultural Consultants	40 Humphries Street	MUSWELLBROOK	NSW	2333	6542 5679	6542 5548
Darrel	Matthews	Upper Hunter Heritage Consultants	33 Adams Street	MUSWELLBROOK	NSW	2333	02 6542 5650	02 6541 0497
Lea-Ann	Miller	Lower Hunter Wonnarua Council Inc	142 Northcote Street	KURRI KURRI	NSW	2327	4937 5540	4937 5540
Robert	Lester	Wonnarua Nation Aboriginal Corporation	PO Box 3066	SINGLETON DELIVERY CENTRE	NSW	2330	6572 1077	6571 4364
Gordon	Griffiths	Wonnarua Culture Heritage	19 O'Donnell Crescent	METFORD	NSW	2323	4934 6437	4934 6437
Tracey	White	Black Creek Aboriginal Corporation	PO Box 168	KURRI KURRI	NSW	2328	4990 6747	4990 6747
Rodney	Matthews	Giwiirr Consultants	8 Fitzgerald Avenue	MUSWELLBROOK	NSW	2333	6541 0506	6541 0751
Jimmy	Woodger		7 Brougham Avenue	FENNEL BAY	NSW	2283	4959 7056	4959 7056
Sir/Madam		Lower Hunter Tribal Council	31 St Andrews Street	MAITLAND	NSW	2320		

### Indigenous Groups - Letter Distribution List

FirstName	LastName	Company	Address1	City	State	PostalCode	Telephone	Fax Number
Sir/Madam		Mimagen Wajaar Pty Ltd	7 Wybalena Close	KILABEN BAY	NSW	2283		
Sir/Madam		St Clair Singleton Aboriginal Corp	PO Box 710	SINGLETON	NSW	2330	6572 4324	6572 4324
Sir/Madam		Wandiyali Aboriginal Corporation	PO Box 386	WALLSEND	NSW	2287		
Sir/Madam		Yamuloong Group Initiatives Ltd	PO Box 2128	DANGAR	NSW	2309		
Sir/Madam		Yarnteen Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation	PO Box 2128	DANGAR	NSW	2309		
Sir/Madam		Hunter Valley Aboriginal Corporation	PO Box 579	MUSWELLBROOK	NSW	2333		
Laurie	Perry	Gringai Aboriginal Cultural Tours	150 John Street	SINGLETON	NSW	2330	6571 2549	6571 2549
		Yorloe'ta Indigenous Development	PO Box 610	CARDIFF	NSW	2285		

**Indigenous Groups - Letter Distribution List**

<b>FirstName</b>	<b>LastName</b>	<b>Company</b>	<b>Address1</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>PostalCode</b>	<b>Telephone</b>	<b>Fax Number</b>
		Assoication						
Debbie	Barwick	Aboriginal Enterprise Development Officer	PO Box 195	KURRI KURRI	NSW	2327	4937 5791	



26 October, 2006

Mr Alistair Bowman  
24 Hickson Street  
Merewether NSW 2291

*Our Reference:* 0048045L22AB.DOC

Dear Mr Bowman,



**RE: APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF A SUBSIDENCE  
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

As you are aware Ashton Coal Operations Pty Limited (Ashton Coal) is intending to lodge the Subsidence Management Plan application to the Department of Primary Industries (Minerals) for longwall panels 1 to 4. The lodgement of the Subsidence Management Plan will be advertised in the Singleton Argus and the Sydney Morning Herald on the 31 October 2006.

As discussed within our consultation meetings with you in May and June 2006, the object of the plan is to ensure appropriate subsidence management strategies are in place for the mining of longwall panels 1 to 4 at Ashton Coal Mine. These strategies are aimed at minimising the impacts of subsidence on surface and subsurface features.

For your convenience, we have attached a copy of the Property No. 130 Subsidence Management Plan. This management plan includes a summary of relevant specific subsidence management plans prepared for the longwall 1 to 4 Application Area, as well as addresses subsidence impacts to farm buildings and other infrastructure located on the property not addressed by other management plans. The Road Subsidence Management Plan has also been attached as it is directly related to your property. Should you require a copy of the entire SMP submission, please contact us and we will forward a copy (on CD) to you as soon as possible.

If you have any concerns regarding the attached documents, please feel free to contact Ashton Coal or submit your comments directly to the Department of Primary Industries (Minerals).

We would also like to advise you that within approximately 6 weeks, development headings (first workings) for longwall panel 1 will commence beneath your property. It is a requirement of Ashton Coal's development consent that they notify you at least one month prior to this activity occurring. The condition states:

3.14 *At least one month prior to the commencement of the following activities, the Applicant shall notify the owner of property No. 130 (refer EIS Volume 3, Figure 3.13) in writing of the proposed activity and any potential impacts due to that activity:*

- a) construction of development headings (first workings) under the property;*
- b) lodgement of an application in accordance with Section 138 of the Coal Mine Regulation Act, 1982 to longwall mine (secondary workings) under the property.*

These workings have been approved by the Department of Primary Industries (Minerals). There are no subsidence impacts predicted to occur as a result of first workings beneath your property, however if you have any concerns or questions relating to the SMP application, please contact Ashton Coal on 02 65 761 111 or 1800 657 639 or ERM on 02 4964 2150.

Yours sincerely,  
for Environmental Resources Management Australia Pty Ltd



Amanda Kerr  
Environmental Engineer



**ASHTON COAL OPERATIONS PTY LTD**  
ABN : 22 078 556 500

### **ASHTON COAL PROJECT**

It is advised that Ashton Coal Operations Pty Ltd is lodging a Subsidence Management Plan application to the New South Wales Department of Primary Industries (Minerals), for longwall mining within Mining Lease 1533 in the Pikes Gully Seam. The longwall panels to be covered by this application is depicted as a shaded section on the sketch below. Once submitted to the Department of Primary Industries (Minerals) and will be advertised and displayed for comment at the Ashton Coal Mine Office and website ([www.ashtoncoal.com.au](http://www.ashtoncoal.com.au)). Inquiries regarding the application can be directed to the Ashton Coal office on (02) 6576 1111.

